

Hafa Adai!

Wanted man found over the weekend. **PAGE 2**

4 Chinese nationals sentenced for illegal entry to Guam. **PAGE 2**

\$1

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CBP accuses Star Marianas of discrimination

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection in an email to Star Marianas Air, Inc. has accused the airline of discrimination due to requests for a “weight specific” officer pursuant to the aircraft’s weight restrictions.

See CBP on Page 4

Abraczinkas seeks acquittal after guilty verdict in jury trial



CHRYSTAL MARINO

William Abraczinkas walks with his defense attorney Katie Comstock to the court room of his jury trial in NMI Superior Court earlier this month.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

In a riposte following the jury’s guilty verdict in the rape trial of William Abraczinkas, defense attorneys involved in the former NMI Superior Court law clerk’s trial filed

a motion last Friday for the judgment of acquittal for all charges against him.

Abraczinkas, who was found guilty on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, has filed

See TRIAL on Page 4



RACQUEL FLOYD

From left, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance board of directors Ron Smith, Frankie Eliptico, Somia Quan, and Fran Castro, Environmental Heroes awardee Tasi to Table board chair Cecilio Raiukiuliti, Environmental Champion awardee Randy Harper, Tasi to Table member Derik Reyes, Tasi to Table advisor Dan Wollak, and Tasi to Table member James Roberto during the MINA Green Gala last Friday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

Archaeologist by trade and

bird conservationists by heart, Randy Harper and Marilyn Swift, were named the 2024 Environmental

Champion during Mariana Islands Nature Alliance’s 11th Annual Green Gala last Friday night at the Hibiscus

Hall of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Other Green Awardees

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Tinian and Aguiguan named WW II Heritage City

» Kilili says bill for \$27.1M in emergency funding for the CNMI’s Medicaid program advances

US AIR FORCE
U.S. Air Force B-29 bombers taxiing in formation before take-off at West Field. 1945



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

The Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan has been designated as among the eight communities across the United States as American World War II Heritage Cities, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan also disclosed in

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LOCAL

Saipan International School is excited to share that its teachers have successfully completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid training.

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BUSINESS

Bank of Guam, in partnership with the Guam Women’s Chamber of Commerce and KUAM Communications, proudly announces the winner of the 2024 Elevate-HER Pitch Program.

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LIFE & STYLE

Celebrities swarmed Milan Fashion Week on the last big day of runway shows on Saturday, sending crowds of adoring fans from venue to venue.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Aquatic Education Program

Open: September 25, 2024
Close: November 25, 2024



Roots of Resilience

2024 TEK Art Contest



Local

Wanted man found over the weekend

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After over a day of searching, the Department of Public Safety located and arrested a man wanted for theft early Saturday morning in Susupe.

DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop informed the media yesterday that officers were able to lo-

cate and arrest Venny Babauta Untalan near Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe early Saturday morning at around 5:35am.

The 27-year-old had an arrest warrant on him for theft that was issued by NMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio last Friday at 4:09pm and a cash bail was set at \$10,000.

DPS has yet to give details on the most recent theft inci-

dent involving Untalan.

DPS thanked community members for their help in locating Untalan and continues to urge vigilance and safety. They ask if community members see anything suspicious to contact the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 if they wish

to remain anonymous. DPS also encourages the public to call the emergency line "911" to report a crime or emergency.

The most recent theft involving Untalan wasn't his first brush with the law.

According to *Saipan Tribune* files, Untalan was arrested on Aug. 24, 2024 after allegedly stealing a bag containing \$10.50 in quarters at



DPS

Venny Babauta Untalan upon his arrest early Saturday morning in Susupe.



DPS

The police mug shot of Venny Babauta Untalan after his first arrest last Aug. 24.

the White Laundry on Dr. Torres Drive, Chalan Kanoa.

The establishment's surveillance footage confirmed Untalan as the culprit and he was located by officers about 40 minutes later near the Subway restaurant in Chalan Piao.

During his arrest that day, a search of his belongings revealed drug paraphernalia and a substance that tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine, adding illegal possession of a controlled substance to his charges for theft.

4 Chinese nationals sentenced for illegal entry to Guam

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Four of six Chinese nationals, who were caught in Guam after illegally entering through Saipan, were sentenced last Friday, Sept. 20, at the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

During the sentencing before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Zhenhua Xu, Wei Meng, Hailong Zhu, and Fuyan Yi—four of the original six who were found hiding on private property in Urunao, Yigo in Guam—were all given time served, followed by three years of supervised release. Sentences were consistent across all defendants involved in Counts 1 and 2 of the indictment.

Facing identical sentences, in addition to time served, the four were each ordered to complete 40 hours of community service and pay a \$200 assessment fee.

Assistant federal public defender Nicole Cruz Breazeale represented Xu, while Criminal Justice Act counsels Joe McDoulett, Mark Hanson, and Joey San Nicolas represented Meng, Zhu, and Yi, respectively.

The case was also notable for being the first criminal case in the CNMI to involve the federal public defender's office since Leilani V. Lujan began her term as federal public defender for the districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in November 2023. Breazeale, whose office is based in Maite, Guam, traveled to Saipan to represent Xu.


According to reports, the defendants were apprehended earlier this year, on Aug. 18, after officers from the Guam Police Department responded

to a report from a local resident who had discovered the group in hiding. Upon arrival in Urunao, GPD officers discovered a total of eight Chinese individuals, and after investigation found that six of those hiding had been transported by boat from Saipan. The discovery triggering a federal investigation and subsequent indictment.

Upon further investigation, Guam authorities confirmed the six as having arrived from Saipan by boat after being granted legal entry into the CNMI under the visitor-worker visa program. Records also revealed that all six subjects had remained beyond their authorized stay as a visitor or beyond the validity of the visa, with no records to extend their authorized stay on Saipan. The group told the feds they paid a \$10,000 transportation fee and relocated to Guam with plans to live there and work for higher wages.

They appeared before federal Magistrate Judge Michael Bordallo, who placed them in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. They were appointed attorneys and scheduled to return to the District Court of Guam for a preliminary hearing last Sept. 3. The four, Xu, Meng, Zhu, and Yi were referred to the NMI District Court, their sentencing concluding last Friday.

As part of their supervised release, Xu, Meng, Zhu, and Yi are required to adhere to specific conditions designed to reintegrate them into society. The 40 hours of community service and the assessment fee reflect a punitive but rehabilitative approach their offenses. The *Saipan Tribune* hasn't confirmed information on the other two individuals at this time.




Aquatic Education Program

ROOTS OF


Resilience

2024 TEK Art Contest



Open: September 25, 2024

Close: November 25, 2024



DFW invites students to enter the 2024 TEK Art Contest!

The Division of Fish & Wildlife's Aquatic Education Program is excited to invite students grades K-12 to participate in their upcoming art contest centered around the theme of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

Since the month of September is designated as the Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month, this is a great and unique opportunity for students to celebrate and express their creativity while exploring the rich and diverse ways that Indigenous cultures understand and interact with the environment.

This initiative seeks to enhance awareness about the significance of TEK in environmental conservation and to cultivate a stronger bond with nature among students. Our event aims to increase traditional awareness encompassing the wisdom, practices, and beliefs that have been passed down through generations, highlighting the importance of sustainability, biodiversity, and respect for nature.

Participants are encouraged to think about how traditional practices can inform modern environmental stewardship. Reflect on how our cultures (or other cultures) perceive their connection to the land, water, plants, and animals. Think about how our indigenous traditions have, since the beginning of our settlement on these islands, inherently encouraged the practice of taking only what you need, to ensure the sustainability of our resources for future generations.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is looking for original and inspiring artwork created by students residing in the CNMI to feature in their upcoming 2025 Art Calendar. Only 13 winning artworks will be selected, which will then be featured in their first art calendar.

The TEK Art Contest will open on September 25th, 2024 and will close at 4:00pm on November 25th, 2024.


All interested students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade in the CNMI enrolled in recognized public, private, and home schools are eligible to participate. Schools, including home schools, must be in compliance with federal and state civil rights and nondiscrimination statutes. Students may submit entries on their own or as part of a classroom; however, students must work individually.

Students residing on the island of Saipan must submit their artwork AND entry forms to the Division of Fish and Wildlife's main office in Lower base, or online via email at cnmi.aquaticed@gmail.com. Students residing on the island of Tinian and Rota must submit their artwork AND entry forms via email or by mail (postmarked). A detailed artwork and description requirements are provided in the QR Codes below.


So, gather your art supplies, unleash your creativity, and join us in celebrating this vital knowledge system by sharing your artistic vision!

If you have any questions, please email cnmi.aquaticed@gmail.com or call (670) 664- 6006.

2024 TEK Art Contest Website



Entry Form



SIS teachers complete Youth Mental Health First Aid training



Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence trainer Phillip Santos, kneeling second from right, led a recent Youth Mental Health First Aid training at Saipan International School.

Saipan International School is excited to share that its teachers have successfully completed the Youth Mental Health First Aid training. This important certification, sponsored by the Systems of Care program at the Community Guidance Center, was led by Phillip Santos from the Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. The training equips our educators with the skills to recognize and address mental health challenges in young people.

The YMHFA program gives SIS teachers the ability to spot signs of mental health and substance use issues in students and to respond in a supportive way. This certification reinforces our commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment where students can thrive both emotionally and academically.

“Our teachers play such an important role in supporting our students’ wellbeing, and this training really strengthens their ability to do that,” said Dr. Ron Snyder, headmaster of Saipan International School. “We’re so thankful to the Community Guidance Center and Phillip for bringing this training to our school.”

“I encourage all schools to take advantage of this kind of training,” said William Rosser, SIS’ new secondary principal and head of the Student Support Committee. “Thanks to our partnerships with NMCADSV and CGC, we can better support our students and strengthen the overall educational environment in the CNMI.”

Santos, a trainer and advocate from the Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, led the YMHFA training, focusing on trauma-informed care and early intervention for mental health concerns.

This training is part of SIS’

mission to support the overall wellbeing of our students. Alongside academics, SIS is committed to ensuring their emotional, mental, and physical safety. As part of this, Student Safety and Integrated Support is now a key focus of our Schoolwide Learning Objective for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation process. SIS’ teachers have also completed

Emergency First Response Training to support the physical as well as the socioemotional needs of our students.

SIS is a leading educational institution in the Northern Mariana Islands, offering a world-class education from kindergarten through high school. It focusses on academic excellence and the social and emotional development of each student. (PR)

Scheduled power service interruption for Sadog Tasi on Sept. 24

CUC
Map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s scheduled power service interruption affecting customers in Sadog Tasi on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption affecting customers in Sadog Tasi on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, from 9am to 12pm.

No water wells, wastewater facilities, and traffic lights will be affected.

The purpose of the scheduled power service interruption is to allow CUC linemen to install a new wooden power pole.

CUC appreciates the community’s understanding and patience as its power crew works to restore service to the affected area. For more information, contact our hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit CUC’s website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. (PR)



AMENDED MINIMUM BID: VEHICLE FOR AUCTION 2020 HONDA CR-V (COLOR: WHITE) LOW MILEAGE: 17,392 EXCELLENT CONDITION



Vehicle Features:

EX-L Sport Utility 4D	4-Cyl, Turbo 1.5 Liter
Automatic SUV	All Wheel Drive
Push Button Start	Sun-Roof
Keyless Entry	Light Brown Leather Seats
Power Door Locks	Bluetooth Wireless
Power Tailgate Release	Multi-View Camera

Bids will be closed on

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder “as is, where is” without any warranties – **Amended Minimum bid is \$24,000.00**. All bids must be received by 4:00p.m.

Please call Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750 to schedule an inspection. Vehicle bid form can be obtained at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES

Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

AMENDED MINIMUM BID: VEHICLE FOR AUCTION 2018 TOYOTA COROLLA (COLOR: WHITE) MILEAGE: 61,146

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at
Telephone Numbers
(670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.



Bids will be closed on

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder “as is, where is” without any warranties – **Amended Minimum bid is \$10,000.00**. All bids must be received by 4:00p.m.

Please call Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750 to schedule an inspection. Vehicle bid form can be obtained at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES

Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Saipan, MP 96950



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 09-2024

Opening date: September 16, 2024

Closing date: October 04, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Custodial-I
(1) Ports Police Officer-I
(2) General Maintenance-I

PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr)
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)

Location: TINIAN

SALARY

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(1) General Maintenance-II
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr to \$16.65/hr)

Location: ROTA

SALARY

Position(s): (1) General Maintenance-II
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr to \$16.65/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on **Friday, October 04, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

BIRD

From page 1

feted that evening were Tasi to Table for the Environmental Heroes Award and BwiiBwii’s Professional Lawn Care as the Green Business of the Year. The awardees were introduced by MINA Tasi Watch ranger Daniel

Ogumoro and the awards were presented by the group’s board of directors, led by chair Frankie Eliptico and directors Sonnia Quan, Ron Smith, and Fran Castro. Harper said they opened their home and hearts to many sick and injured birds and tirelessly rehabilitated them for release back into the wild. To sum up his eight-minute, Harp-

er said their transition from being archaeologist to conservationist began 30 years ago when they attended a Christmas Bird Camp that opened their eyes to the world of birds—started building nests for birds after noticing that some parents were failing to provide for their offspring. They initially kept the effort a secret and did not inform the Division

of Fish and Wildlife about their actions. Biologists from California then learned about their efforts and supported their work, acknowledging the importance of their contributions. The archaeologist/conservationist emphasized that they never took any donations for their bird rescue work, showing their dedication to the cause without personal gain. Harper expressed gratitude to the attendees and DFW for the recognition and reiterated the commitment to helping the environment and how their work has been a fulfilling experience. Harper’s wife, Swift, wasn’t able to attend because of health issues. Tasi to Table board chair Cecilio Raiukiulitiy, meanwhile, said their group provides fishing lessons to high school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and teaches the students to be responsible for the environment. “We also host fishing derbies and students take charge of the whole event from registration and weighing the fish and cutting up the fish and cooking.” According to TTT president Gene Weaver, during their student program, guest presenters such as MINA are regularly brought on to speak on the importance of preserving the ocean and its resources. Furthermore, during TTT’s outdoor seminars at Saipan’s beaches, the students al-

ways do a beach cleanup after the seminar is over. At these outdoor sessions, TTT encourages students to bring their own reusable bottles and as much as possible tries to provide 5-gallon water dispensers instead of single-use water bottles at TTT’s outdoor sessions. “When students complete our program, we want them to walk away with new friends, life skills, fishing skills, and a respect for our ocean and resources. We are grateful that MINA selected us for this award and we hope to keep our student program and mission going,” said Weaver. Some TTT achievements this year include TTT Scholarship wherein two \$500 scholarships for former TTT students who are going to Northern Marianas College were awarded. Meanwhile, no one from BwiiBwii’s Professional Lawn Care was able to claim the award due to owner Benusto M. Lisua being off-island. “I was off the island and just got back this morning (Saturday). It was my fault for not reminding my other half and my brothers of that event,” said Lisua in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TRIAL

From page 1

a motion seeking acquittal, claiming the prosecution failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. The motion, filed by his defense attorney Charlene W. Brown, argues that the evidence presented during the jury trial, which concluded last Sept. 13, was insufficient to sustain the conviction.

The jury trial, which spanned five days, saw testimonies from several law enforcement officers and the alleged victim. Despite the defense’s initial motion for acquittal being denied at the close of the prosecution’s case, Brown renewed the motion following the guilty verdict, citing procedural rules that allow such a motion within seven days of the jury’s decision.

The defense’s argument hinges on the lack of corroborative evidence. Brown claimed that during the trial, the prosecution presented the alleged victim’s testimony as the primary evidence of the defendant’s guilt. However, the defense pointed to WhatsApp conversations admitted into evidence, which they claim, contradict the alleged victim’s narrative. No-

tably, the prosecutor introduced these messages during the trial, which Brown argues undermines the prosecution’s case. Brown highlighted that the burden of proof rests with the government, which, she contends, failed to establish the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. She referenced previous cases, including *Commonwealth v. Macabalo* and *Commonwealth v. Zai Bin Feng*, where judgments of acquittal were granted due to insufficient evidence. In these cases, the courts found that the prosecution had not disproven reasonable alternative explanations for the alleged crimes, thus failing to meet the high standard of proof required for a conviction. “During the jury trial, no prosecution witness could testify to the contradiction of evidence that was found in the WhatsApp conversations. Thus, the prosecution’s only evidence that the defendant sexually assaulted the alleged victim was the alleged victim herself. However, at the trial, the WhatsApp conversations that were admitted into evidence contradicted the alleged victim’s version of events. Of note, the prosecutor was the party that admitted the WhatsApp conversations as evidence,” stated Brown.

In her motion, Brown argued that the jury improperly shifted the burden of proof onto Abraczinkas, forcing him to prove his innocence rather than holding the prosecution accountable for proving his guilt. She claims that this misapplication of legal standards, combined with the contradictory evidence from the WhatsApp conversations, warrants a judgment of acquittal. “The government failed to present evidence that any rational trier of fact could find met the threshold of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt,” Brown wrote in her filing. “Given the contradictions in the alleged victim’s testimony and the WhatsApp evidence, no reasonable jury should have returned a guilty verdict on any of the charges.” The motion, filed on Sept. 20, now awaits the court’s review. If granted, the judgment of acquittal would set aside the guilty verdict and result in Abraczinkas’s release. However, if the court denies the motion, the defense could still pursue further appeals. The court has not yet set a date for the hearing on the motion for acquittal. Until then, Abraczinkas remains in custody, awaiting the court’s decision on whether the jury’s verdict will stand or be overturned.

CBP

From page 1

Star Marianas—who has been providing free transportation for U.S. CBP personnel from Saipan to Rota in order to satisfy pre-screening requirements for a Rota-Guam flight—previously wrote to U.S CBP port director Ferdinand Mallari requesting the assignment of a “lightweight” USCBP officer, if available.

In an email from Mallari addressed to Star Marianas, he accused the airline of discriminatory practice.

“I have continued to inform you about this request for a ‘weight specific’ officer. This is discriminatory in nature and do not condone nor will honor such a manner of request. do not make this type of request again. You will get whoever is assigned as all our officers are equally capable and trained to perform their duties,” he said.

Star Marianas board chair Robert Christian clarifies that the request was not intended to discriminate but rather pursuant to critical weight restrictions on its aircraft.

“Our request was made solely due to the limited capacity of our aircraft and the critical weight restrictions necessary for safe operation. To imply that we are engaging in discrimination against USCBP officers is not only unfounded but also undermines the spirit of cooperation upon which this program was built,” he said.

Christian expressed his disappointment in Mallari’s statement and added that Star Marianas will be reassessing its voluntary participation in its arrangement with CBP.

“We were not only surprised by your message but also disappointed by the unprofessional tone and lack of constructive dialogue. Star Marianas will continue to remind your office of the need to assign officers with lower body weights as we reassess our voluntary participation in this program,” he said.

“Let me be absolutely clear; Star Marianas Air’s participation in the program enabling USCBP preclearance on our flights is entirely voluntary. We are under no obligation to continue this arrangement, and, as far as I am aware, USCBP is equally free to terminate its involvement. Your characterization of our request for consideration of the assigned officer’s weight as ‘discriminatory’ is both inaccurate and offensive,” Christian added.

In related news, Christian has also spoken with Commonwealth Ports Authority to arrange for “adequate” CBP personnel on Rota in order for Star Marianas to continue to operate its Rota-Guam flights.

To this, CPA executive director Leo Tudela stated that although he sympathizes with the Rota community, CPA was never a party in the arrangement for CBP personnel on Rota.

“Although I sympathize with those

that will be affected by SMA’s choice to discontinue providing transportation for CBP personnel, I want to be clear that the transportation arrangement was between CBP and SMA, not CPA. CPA was never a part to the arrangement/agreement,” said Tudela.

In response to Tudela, Star Marianas board chair Christian said while Star Marianas understands that CPA is not directly responsible for transporting CBP personnel to Rota, CPA, as the managing authority for the airport, holds the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that all required services are in place to support the operations of airlines and facilitate passenger travel.

“Thank you for your letter acknowledging the CPA’s position regarding its lack of direct participation in the provision of CBP pre-clearance services at the Rota airport. While we understand that CPA may not be directly responsible for delivering these services, it is important to emphasize that the CPA, as the managing authority for the airport, holds the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that all required services are in place to support the operations of airlines and facilitate passenger travel. The availability of CBP pre-clearance services is critical to maintaining scheduled flights between Rota and Guam and ensuring that passengers meet U.S. entry requirements,” he said.

CPA has yet to respond to Star Marianas.

TINIAN

From page 1

his *e-kilili* newsletter that \$27.1 million in emergency funding for the CNMI’s Medicaid program was included in a package of bills that the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce marked up Wednesday.

He said the National Park Service announced Tuesday the designation of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan and seven other communities as American World War II Heritage Cities.

The seven other newly designated jurisdictions are Calhoun and Ouachita Counties in Arkansas, Plymouth Township in Michigan, Valley City in North Dakota, Ponca City and Kay County in Oklahoma, North Kingstown in Rhode Island, Sumpter City and County in South Carolina, and Ogden in Utah.

Sablan said the recognition honors the contributions of American towns, cities, counties, and their citizens, who played a significant role in supporting America’s war effort during World War II.

The delegate said Tinian was converted into the largest airbase in the world after its capture by U.S. forces in 1944.

In August 1945, two U.S. bombers flying out of Tinian dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, ending the war.

Sablan said the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipality is among eight newly designated jurisdictions to join the 30 other localities already recognized.

He said the American World War II Heritage Cities Program was established by Congress in 2019 through the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act al-

lowing the Secretary of the Interior to designate one city from each state and territory as an “American World War II Heritage City” to recognize noteworthy contributions of local communities during World War II.

National Park Service director Chuck Sams said World War II not only impacted those who went to war, but also those who carried on the life and work of the home front.

“It’s important we remember that cities and towns both big and small made major contributions at home to the war effort, all of which helped Allied forces defeat the Axis powers,” Sams said.

Only one American WW II Heritage City can be designated in each state or territory.

Sams said although the program’s enabling legislation references “cities,” other types of local jurisdictions (countries, towns, townships, etc.) are also eligible for this recognition.

Regarding the emergency Medicaid funding, Sablan said this \$27.1 million funding would erase the debt owed the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and other providers from 2022 and 2023, so Medicaid would start Fiscal Year 2025 with a clean slate.

Sablan expressed gratitude to House Energy and Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ) for their bipartisan leadership and partnership on this important matter.

He also thanked Marianas Medicaid Agency, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the National Association of Medicaid Directors “for their tireless advocacy.”

Sablan said he stands ready to work with his colleagues as the bill advances to the full House for consideration.

TO CELEBRATE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

CNMI students invited to enter nationwide contest

America250, the official non-partisan entity charged by Congress with planning the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Semiquincentennial, in collaboration with BNY, kicked off the second installment of “America’s Field Trip”—a nationwide scholastic contest where students have the opportunity to earn a special behind-the-scenes experience at iconic American historic, natural, and cultural sites.

Starting last Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 through Wednesday, April 16, 2025, America’s Field Trip invites students in grades 3-12 to submit artwork or a piece of writing to reflect on what America means to them.

Earlier this year, thousands of students from nearly every U.S. state and territory submitted inspiring entries for the inaugural America’s Field Trip contest. During July and August 2024, first-place award winners participated in special field trip experiences at sites such as the Statue of Liberty, Yellowstone National Park, the National Archives, and more. The full list of 2024 award winners and their submissions can be found online at america250.org/fieldtrip/awardees.

» America250 opens submissions for America’s Field Trip

Watch this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wazm_RtdCQ to learn more about the America’s Field Trip contest, and see some of the incredible places award winners visited this summer.

Next summer, 75 first-place award winners and their designated chaperone will be provided airfare, lodging, and access to an unforgettable field trip experience at one of our nation’s select historical and cultural sites across the country. Second-place award winners will receive a \$500 cash award.

Summer 2025 field trip experiences and partners include:

- Behind-the-scenes tour of the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center and sleepover at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C.

- Exclusive visits to two Washington, D.C. institutions: a trip into the National Archives Vault on the National Mall and private tour of the Smithsonian’s National Zoo

- Exclusive tour of Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia and visit to the Library of

Congress in Washington, D.C.

- Storytelling, history, and commemoration under the stars at Mount Rushmore National Memorial

- Private tours of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, the International African American Museum, and the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, South Carolina

- Exclusive tours of the Alamo in San Antonio and the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, Texas.

- Backstage tour of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio

- Beyond the ropes tour of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Guided visit to Angel Island Immigration Station and candlelight tour of Fort Point at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California

- Private guided tour of Yellowstone National Park in Montana and Wyoming

- Ranger-led hikes and tours of the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park in

Colorado

- Private tour of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida

“America’s 250th anniversary is an opportunity for everyone to share their stories, their thoughts on the past, and their hopes and dreams for the future—especially our young people,” said America250 chair Rosie Rios. “America’s Field Trip is more than just a contest; it’s an investment in our country’s future. When we provide students with special opportunities to explore our nation’s iconic landmarks, we’re not just creating incredible memories; we’re fostering a deeper understanding of our shared history and values. These experiences will inspire

the next generation

of leaders to build a stronger, more united America.”

“BNY is excited to continue our partnership with America250 and support this exceptional opportunity for young people to explore the accomplishments and potential of our nation,” said Jayee Koffey, global head of Enterprise Execution and chief corporate affairs officer for BNY.

“Students are the architects of tomorrow and we believe America’s Field Trip will inspire the next generation to continue our nation’s long history of innovation.”

America250 has also partnered with edtech leader Discovery Education to develop

customized educational resources including lesson plans and student activities that empower educators to bring America’s 250th anniversary into their classrooms. New for the 2024-2025 school year, an educator-facing instructional video from Discovery Education is designed to help teachers align the contest prompt, “What does America mean to you,” with standards frameworks.

“America’s Field Trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity for students to step out of the classroom and into the heart of our nation’s history and culture,” said Amy Nakamoto, general manager of Corporate Partnerships at Discovery

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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-025

S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email alley.reyes@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-033

WAREHOUSE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of warehouse space for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed warehouse space must comply with DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulations.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set followed by completion of registration with the CUC Procurement & Supply.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RFP-24-033, Warehouse Space Lease for CUC Saipan**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements during Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the proposal under this request, or procure our contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Pepe Liwanag, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email at pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mexican 'rapists' seems so mild compared to what Trump says about immigrants today

In 2015, Donald Trump shocked the political establishment and many Americans when he came down the escalator at Trump Tower to announce his first presidential candidacy and attacked Mexican migrants:

"They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people," Trump said at the time.

Grouping migrants seeking a better life with dangerous criminals was certainly appalling. But, today, the immigration rhetoric of Trump and his allies has evolved to such new extremes that his infamous words from nine years ago seem mild in comparison.

The latest example: Trump's unfounded and debunked accusations during the recent presidential debate that Haitian Americans are stealing and eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio. Officials and police in the city, and Ohio's Republican governor, have said there are no credible reports of that happening.

Trump's immigration fear-mongering exploits reasonable concerns people have about the U.S. southern border with the use of lies and misinformation whose truthfulness his campaign doesn't even try to defend anymore. The probability that at least some voters will believe them makes the gamble worth it.

In a CNN interview over the weekend, Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance, a U.S. senator from Ohio, defended the unverified rumors about Haitians.

"If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'm going to do," Vance told CNN's Dana Bash. "You guys are completely letting Kamala Harris coast."

When Bash responded, "You just said you are creating this story," Vance backtracked and said he meant he created the media focus on the issues small towns face because of immigration.

Vance's shameful rationalization aside, Trump isn't trying to spark a reasonable debate or come up with solutions to the nation's immigration policies. Were he interested in doing so, he wouldn't have pushed congressional Republicans to block a bipartisan border security bill.

Dehumanizing immigrants—especially Black ones from poor countries like Haiti—is a vicious but effective political tool. With the current state of distrust in the media and institutions, the sky's the limit when it comes to perpetuating pernicious myths about migrants.

The former president has accused migrants of invading the U.S., borrowed Nazi language when he accused them of "poi-

See MEXICAN on Page 7



Building a dual 102mm f/6 Celestron Refractor Binoscope

By NORMAN BUTLER

Special to Saipan Tribune



Norman Butler is originally from Topeka, Kansas and is a 1962 graduate of Topeka High School and a 1960's U.S. Navy E6 veteran. Butler has a 1972 associate's degree from San Diego City College along with a 1980's Bachelor's and Master's degree in Physics, including a Ph.D. from a California University. Norman's also a 1981 RTMC and a 2011 RTMC EXPO Merit Award winning Amateur Telescope and Binoscope maker and author of five popular Amazon books, including *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy Technology Today* magazines with Butler's articles and stories about designing, building, and using amateur and homemade telescopes and binoscopes for astronomical observing. Butler is also an astronomer who worked at the Haleakala Observatory on Maui, Hawaii starting in the early 1980s for AVCO Everett Research Laboratory along with the U.S. Air Force.

Something that was always on my list of things to build someday was a GOTO refractor binoscope. I knew the technology was available and already out there. All I had to do was to decide what kind of hardware and software to use to build it with. In undertaking a one-of-a-kind project like this, certain critical design elements, such as adjustment of the interpupillary distance and optical alignment, focusing, the electronics and software, and the correct gearing to drive the GOTO mount, must be thoughtfully planned out. Each of these important elements presented its own engineering challenges and difficulties. In an engineering sense, I was certain it was going to be challenging, and it wasn't going to be as easy as I originally thought and of course it never is. But even so...that's fun and the challenge and satisfaction of building your own telescope or Binoscope.

I made the decision to go ahead and build a dual 102mm f/6 refractor Binoscope using a dual pair of 102mm f/6 Celestron refractor telescopes. I actually completed building it in about three months. It was a great project that was challenging and one which I really enjoyed building.

The 2011 RTMC EXPO 'Merit Award' plaque

Everything worked out well and my homemade one-of-a-kind dual 102mm f/6 Celestron Binoscope was quite successful even with all the great telescope competition that was entered when it won a 'Merit Award' at the popular yearly May, 2011 Riverside Telescope Makers Conference at Camp Oaks in Big Bear, California.

After asking myself the same question a few times, "Are you ready to build a GOTO refractor binoscope or another binocular telescope?" After thinking about it for a while and pondering the engineering challenges of such an ambitious project, it was decided, "Sure, why not? Let's get started."

Having already built a 10-mirror 6-inch f/15 Cassegrain binocular telescope on a clock-driven equatorial mount 40 years ago, I guess I was now ready for something different and perhaps an even greater engineering challenge. And this new Binoscope project was certainly going to be challenging enough, especially with a GOTO system. As an ambitious Binoscope maker who always had a desire to build a refractor Binoscope, using an excellent pair of 102mm Celestron f/6 optical tube assemblies and putting them on an Alt-azimuth mount using a Lumicon Universal Pier seemed simple enough in its design to mount the dual 102mm f/6 Celestron optical tube assemblies with a pair of Interpupillary distance adjustable (I.P.D.) microscope prism eyepiece holders and two 40mm microscope eyepieces.

And that's part of the main reason why I chose to build it because all of the parts needed to construct it are available, either commercially or easily fabricated with many of them being purchased off the shelf at a local hardware store.

The second reason is because a 102mm Celestron refractor with a focal ratio of f/6 can perform very good optically for visual astronomy. It's relatively fast and has a wide enough field of view for observing all kinds of celestial objects. The third reason is that it is mechanically simple in design, plus it can be easily transported and assembled and both refractor optical tube assemblies can be aligned in quick fashion using the same Celestron mounting hardware on top of a Lumicon Universal Pier system (which unfortunately is no longer available commercially).

Azimuth servomotor with gear drive

Whether it is a large binocular telescope or a 102mm refractor binoscope, it really depends on what kind of visual observing you really want to do with your binoscope. A large binocular telescope or even a 102mm refractor binoscope with its dual light gathering power can provide wonderful celestial views of nebula and deep-sky objects that will surpass a single telescope of the same aperture. However, building one will require a lot of work and some expense. Building a binoscope requires that both optical systems be identical, not only in just the optical aspects, such as the objective diameters, focal ratios, and the exit pupil diameters, but also the mechanical aspects. Plus, one must consider its portability and how easy will it be to transport, set up, and use.

Altitude servomotor with gear drive

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Puppy Mill Awareness Day—It all starts with you

Three tiny puppies born last year at an Ohio breeding facility were just 3 days old when they took their last breath. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection report, the breeder noticed they weren't gaining weight but didn't bother to seek veterinary care.

Three days later, a fourth puppy from the same litter reportedly died. The USDA issued a mere warning. PETA called for state criminal charges to be brought against the breeder, but none ever were.

Such indifference and pervasive cruelty define the puppy-breeding industry and its puppy mills.

Driven by profit, puppy mills are notoriously dismal operations fraught with suffering. They repeatedly breed female dogs and keep them in squalor, doom puppies to a lifetime of health problems and fuel the companion animal overpopulation crisis, in which some 70 million animals are homeless in the U.S. alone.

In honor of Puppy Mill Awareness Day (September 21), let's take decisive action to end this cycle of cruelty. The power lies in our hands.

How do puppy mills get away with such blatant cruelty? It starts at the top: The federal Animal Welfare Act sets minimal welfare requirements for dogs in mass-breeding facilities, and a recent analysis found that the USDA penalizes only a paltry 1% of the puppy mills it cites for violations of these already meager standards. Breeders exploit loopholes in the law, subjecting animals to deplorable conditions: cages barely larger than their bodies, exposure to extreme temperatures, limited medical care and relentless breeding until their exhausted bodies wear out.

Because veterinary visits are required only once a year, un-

checked, untreated illnesses and injuries are the norm. Animals with crusty, oozing eyes, raging ear infections and mange that ravages their skin languish untreated. Abscessed feet bear the scars of unforgiving wire floors. Advanced dental disease torments dogs with unbearable pain. Vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia and lethargy debilitate animals suffering from contagious diseases.

The profound psychological impact is equally devastating. Exercise, playtime and companionship are rare, causing severe anxiety and depression. Dogs circle frantically and pace endlessly, driven insane from constant confinement. They tremble in dark corners of feces-encrusted cages, fight for limited resources and bark constantly in distress.

Barely weaned puppies who have been torn away from their mothers grapple with behavioral issues that haunt them for life. Genetic defects and deformities run rampant as breeders inbreed animals and intentionally create dogs with distorted physical features, such as flattened faces.

Breeders sell these animals to unsuspecting buyers online through flashy websites and alluring classifieds. What's more, most pet stores knowingly obtain puppies from these hellholes—which they'll keep doing as long as people keep buying them.

And there's something else to consider. Not only do breeders inflict anguish and deprivation on dogs in puppy mills, but they also harm homeless animals. Every puppy they sell represents one less available home for the millions of homeless animals who already exist in shelters or are struggling to survive on the streets.

Refusing to support the businesses that profit from this privation strikes a blow against their cruel industry. Start by choosing

By **MELISSA RAE SANGER**

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Melissa Rae Sanger is a licensed veterinary technician and a staff writer for the PETA Foundation



to adopt animals rather than purchasing them from breeders or pet stores. You can find virtually any breed for adoption at shelters or on Petfinder.com, though mixed breeds are just as loving and often healthier than "purebreds."

Never buy supplies—toys, food or anything else—from pet stores that sell animals. Every cent spent at such places funds cruelty.

Inform everyone you know why buying animals from pet stores or breeders perpetuates cruelty. Initiate conversation. Post on social media. Shedding light on the truth empowers others to make informed choices.

A growing number of cities and towns throughout the U.S. are passing ordinances that prohibit retail animal sales, and you can help. Sign petitions, call and email local legislators and push authorities to hold breeders accountable for neglect and abuse.

Together, we can help prevent cruelty to animals and end the companion animal overpopulation crisis by taking action to shut down puppy mills.

America's two-party system is failing us

Are Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump really the two best candidates for America's most demanding and important job? Hardly. Trump tried to reverse the last election. And while Harris would be a reversion toward the mean—after an unfit Trump and an aging Joe Biden—she's far from the most talented executive in the country.

So why, then, are they the two candidates to be president?

The answer is America's two-party political system. While third parties occasionally make some noise, they never threaten the Democratic-Republican duopoly.

It's just as America's founders feared. George Washington warned against having only two political parties: "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism."

According to Washington, rival political parties "serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put, in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of a party." John Adams, for his part, considered a two-party system a grave threat to the republic: "a division of the republic into two great parties ... is to be dreaded as the great political evil."

Indeed, the fewer tribes there are, the worse tribalism gets. And in America the two political tribes battle each other—and only each other—every single day. This rivalry amplifies bias, distorts the political debate, shunts policy platforms, stifles compromise and negotiation, and leads to subpar and underqualified

government officials.

A deeply backward approach now dominates American politics: hating the other side even more than you like your own. An October 2020 study published in *Science Magazine* titled "Political Sectarianism in America," highlighted this new paradigm: "Democrats and Republicans—the 85% of U.S. citizens who do not identify as pure independents—have grown more contemptuous of opposing partisans for decades, and at similar rates." Recently, the study continued, "this aversion exceeded their affection for copartisans."

This explains a lot. When you hate Trump viscerally it makes his opponent, Harris, seem like a better candidate than she really is. And vice versa.

The problem created by having only two political parties has been getting worse. Lee Drutman, the author of "Breaking the Two-Party Doom Loop: The Case for Multiparty Democracy in America," explained in 2020 that although "America's two-party system goes back centuries, the threat today is new and different because the two parties are now truly distinct, a development that I date to the 2010 midterms. Until then the two parties contained enough overlapping multitudes within them that the sort of bargaining and coalition-building natural to multiparty democracy could work inside the two-party system. No more."

A more diverse set of political parties would help. It would invigorate mainstream political discourse with additional points of view, as today many important ideas don't make it onto the platforms of either side. The introduction of new ideas and co-

grants are replacing white voters.

His allies have followed suit. A sheriff in Ohio wrote on social media this week that he wants people to write down the addresses of homes with Harris signs. He then referred to migrants as insects.

"Sooo...when the Illegal human 'Locust' (which she supports!) Need places to live...We'll already have the addresses of the their New families...who supported their arrival!" Portage County Sheriff Bruce Zuchowski wrote.

This is not just rhetoric. The Great Replacement Theory has been linked to mass shootings, such as the killing of 10 people, most of them Black, in Buffalo, New York, in 2022

By **WILLIAM COOPER**

The Fulcrum

William Cooper is the author of "How America Works ... and Why it Doesn't."



alitions would reduce rigid partisanship and provide incentives for politicians to respect empirical reality and not just reflexively appease their constituencies. As Drutman put it, a multiparty system would be "more fluid and responsive to Americans' political preferences" and help "dissolve our binary partisanship."

Additional political parties wouldn't solve everything, to be sure. The new parties' specific platforms would be key. There would likely still be gridlock in Congress. Tribalism and social-media echo chambers wouldn't disappear. And other defects in the political system would remain.

But a vibrant multiparty system would directly address the biggest problem in U.S. politics: tribal rivalry and irrational partisanship. This more rational and diverse political system would make elections more about individual merit and less about party loyalty. And it would likely generate talented presidential candidates who are the most qualified for the job. A far cry from what we have now.

and the massacre of 22 people at a Walmart in a heavily Hispanic part of El Paso, Texas.

Political violence, or the threat of it, has put the nation on alert this election cycle after law enforcement arrested a man suspected of attempting to ambush Trump at his West Palm Beach golf course. Two months ago, a different suspect tried to kill him at a Pennsylvania rally. In Springfield, officials have reported several bomb threats after Trump and Vance spread rumors about its Haitian-American population.

And yet there is no sign that Trump will tamp down what he says about immigrants. The consequences can be serious.

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MEXICAN

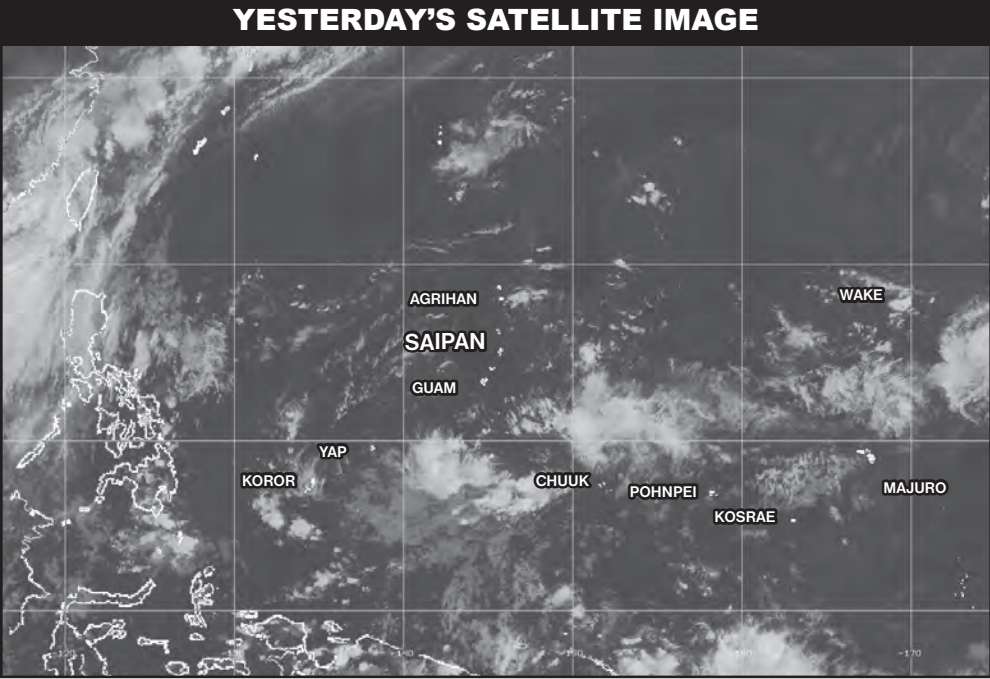
From page 6

soning the blood of our country." He's the estimated number of undocumented migrants to 21 million — most studies estimate there are 11 million of them—and evoked the neo-Nazi Great Replacement Theory on the debate stage last week.

Trump said that "a lot of these illegal immigrants coming in, they're trying to get them to vote." There is no evidence of a mass effort to get undocumented immigrants to register to vote. Trump's claim echoes the racist theory that non-white immi-

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds around 10 mph becoming variable on Tuesday.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 4:28 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 , 2024
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only minor updates were needed tonight. Showers were increased to scattered due to satellite imagery suggesting showers moving into the region. Benign seas is expected for the next few forecast periods. Winds are expected to be gentle to moderate today and diminish to light to gentle by later tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM	
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM	
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:01 AM	10:26 PM
Tuesday	-	12:04 PM	11:24 PM
Wednesday	-	1:03	-
Thursday	12:22 AM	1:56 PM	-
Friday	1:20 AM	2:44 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Constitution Week recognized by Guam leaders

HAGATÑA, Guam—The Judiciary of Guam, together with the Office of the Governor and the Guam Legislature, held a joint proclamation and resolution presentation commemorating Sept. 17 as Constitution Day and Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week.

Observed annually across the United States, the occasion celebrates the signing of the Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, and serves as a reminder of the nation's founding principles of

freedom and democracy, promotes civic engagement, and educates the public on the document's significance.

The ceremony took place in the Monessa G. Lujan Appellate Courtroom, where Justice F. Philip Carbullido and Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena were joined by Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua F. Tenorio, and Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. Attending virtually were Chief Justice Robert J. Torres

and Judge John C. Terlaje. Also present in the ceremony were Judge Arthur A. Barcinas, Magistrate Judge Jonathan R. Quan, Senator Jesse A. Lujan, Senator Sabina F. Perez, Administrator of the Courts Danielle T. Rosete, and managers and attorneys of the Judiciary of Guam.

"Constitution Day is a special day to honor one of the most important documents in history. Signed 237 years ago, this document laid the

foundation for the freedoms we cherish and the principles that guide our government," said Lamorena. "But the Constitution is more than a framework; it is a promise to the people. It ensures that power rests with the people, that their voices are heard, and that their rights are protected. It reminds us that government exists to serve, not to rule."

"This celebration is going to provide the community the opportunity to reaffirm and

think about the importance of what our Constitution does for us...that means protection of our democracy, that means guidance towards law and order," said Leon Guerrero.

Terlaje remarked, "Constitution Week provides an opportunity for citizens to reflect upon the enduring principles of liberty, democracy, and justice, and to celebrate the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The Judiciary of Guam is committed to uphold-

ing these principles, ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice, and protecting the rights of all individuals within its jurisdiction."

As part of the festivities, the court will hold outreach presentations in middle and high schools throughout the week, where law clerks, research attorneys, and judicial officers will educate island youth about the importance of the Constitution and the rights it guarantees. **(PR)**

Radewagen manages House floor during passage of her bills

WASHINGTON, DC—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) served as floor manager during consideration of a slate of bipartisan legislation, including bills she sponsored and cosponsored. The U.S. House of Representatives passed her bill, H.R. 6606, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the statement of policy, and a bill on which she was the lead original cosponsor, H.R. 7159, the Pacific Partnership Act, which was sponsored by Rep. Ed Case (D-HI).

Pacific Partnership Act
Speaking in the House in support of the Pacific Partnership Act, Radewagen said, "I was proud to be the lead Republican on this bipartisan bill introduced by the gentleman from Hawaii, Mr. Case. As a grateful and

proud Pacific Islander, I want to remind my colleagues that the United States is a Pacific Nation: From the West Coast of the continental U.S., to Hawaii, to American Samoa, to the Northern Mariana Islands, to Guam. The Pacific is critically important to American interests, American values, and to the Americans I have the privilege to represent."

"However, in recent years, the Chinese Communist Party has mounted an aggressive campaign to increase its influence among Pacific Island countries. The 2022 security pact between Beijing and the Solomon Islands was seen by many as an alarming wake-up call," she continued. "The CCP is pressuring island nations to overturn their recognition of Taiwan, illegally fishing in their exclusive eco-

nomie zones, and bribing local law enforcement to influence local elections. While Congress has done its job to extend the Compacts of Free Association for another 20 years, those only focus on three Pacific Island countries. There are 11 others who need our attention."

"The United States has enduring cultural, historic, economic, and people-to-people connections with the Pacific Islands. We just opened up an embassy in Vanuatu, but we must do more," Radewagen stated. "The Pacific Islands are strategically crucial to the United States. For that reason,

the Pacific Partnership Act requires the State Department to submit to Congress a 'Strategy for Pacific Partnership' that describes our goals for engaging with the Pacific Islands in the diplomatic, defense and economic domains.

She concluded, "It gives Congress the oversight visibility to ensure that the executive branch formulates and implements a strategy that addresses the many shared threats facing Pacific Island Countries. It also requires that we coordinate and collaborate with our allies and partners like Australia, Taiwan, Japan, and New Zealand to ensure that our programs directed

toward the Pacific Islands are non-duplicative and complementary. The Pacific Partnership Act will help to better focus U.S. engagement with Pacific Island nations."

House passed HR 6606
Radewagen also gave floor remarks in support of her bill, H.R. 6606.

"My bill was approved by a unanimous bipartisan vote of 43 to zero during markup by the Foreign Affairs Committee. Export controls are an important tool to ensure that American technology and items which are normally sold for commercial purposes cannot be used for nefarious purposes by our adversaries,"

she said. "Currently, those adversaries are using technological and economic espionage to steal everything they can from the American people, to undermine our security and our industrial base."

"H.R. 6606 clarifies U.S. policy to ensure that export controls can be used against those who want to steal America's trade secrets. It ensures that the most powerful tools we have in our policy toolbox can be used against economic espionage, as well," she concluded. "This bill is a clear and important message to our adversaries: We will not allow the stealing of American trade secrets. H.R. 6606 deserves our unanimous support." **(PR)**

STUDENTS

From page 5

Education Experience. "As we approach this important milestone, we are excited to work with America250 and BNY to spark curiosity and bring this national contest to life for students nationwide."

How to participate in America's Field Trip

Students must develop their submissions individually and must have a teacher, parent, or legal guardian submit on their behalf. Students at each grade level will respond to the question, "What does America mean to you?" Students, families, and teachers can find more information, including resources, contest rules, release forms, and toolkit materials to integrate the contest into classroom activities at america250.org/FieldTrip.

The contest has different submission requirements for each grade band and is available to any student in elementary school (third to fifth grade), middle school (sixth to eighth grade), and high school (ninth to twelfth grade). The

contest begins accepting submissions today, Sept. 16, 2024, and will remain open until 11:59pm on April 16, 2025. First- and second-place award recipients will be announced in May 2025, and field trips will occur in July and August 2025. Educators can help spread the word about America's Field Trip for the chance to win a cash award!

The educator associated with the top-scoring entry in each grade band will each receive a \$1,000 cash award. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest begins 12am ET on Sept. 16, 2024 and ends 5pm ET on April 16, 2025. Open to U.S. students (3rd-12th grade); student's parent/legal guardian or teacher with parental permission must submit entry on student's behalf (unless student is the age of majority).

Submission includes grant of license rights to entry's content. First Prize award-ees must travel with parent/legal guardian on designated dates. See Official Rules for full details including how to enter, eligibility requirements, prize description/restrictions and judging procedure. Void where prohibited. **(PR)**

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Hafa Adai!

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Business

BOG announces winner of 2024 Elevate-HER pitch competition

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam, in partnership with the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce and KUAM Communications, proudly announces the winner of the 2024 Elevate-HER Pitch Program.

Karmen George, the founder of Nemin Boutique, was selected as the grand prize winner among three talented finalists. George will receive a prize package that includes \$5,000 in funding from Bank of Guam, \$5,000 worth of advertising credit for TV, radio, and digital from KUAM Communications, and a one-year membership in the GWCC.

The announcement took place in front of a live audience of more than 400 attendees at Fanachu Famalão'an 2024: ElevateHER, the GWCC's signature women's summit on Sept. 19, 2024 at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort.

In addition to the grand prize, George was presented with The People's Choice Award, as selected by the live audience at Fanachu

Famalão'an. The People's Choice Award winner receives \$1,000 in funding from Bank of Guam, \$1,000 in advertising credit from KUAM Communications, and an annual member to the GWCC.

George is a passionate entrepreneur and dedicated advocate for Micronesian women. Nemin Boutique is inspired by the vision of empowering women through modern interpretations of traditional dress. The name is derived from the word Nemin which means women in Chuukese.

George creates bold and beautiful muumuus for a new generation, transforming the classic muumuu into a contemporary statement piece. Her designs celebrate Micronesian heritage while embracing a modern aesthetic, fostering confidence and individuality among Micronesian women.

Currently a solo operation, George has ambitious plans which includes outsourcing distribution to streamline operations and increase reach.

"The experience has been inspiring, giving me the confidence to take my business to new heights. This isn't just a win for me, but for every women entrepreneur who dreams big and works hard. Thank you to Bank of Guam, KUAM and the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce for believing in me and helping me bring my vision to life. This is just the beginning for me and my business, and I can't wait to see how we all continue to elevate women entrepreneurs across the island," said George.

All three finalists presented their business pitches before a distinguished panel of judges including Mika Caldwell, vice president of Archway, Inc.; Jessica Leon Guerrero, president of M80 Systems; and Maria Eugenia Leon Guerrero, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Bank of Guam. All finalists were judged on their pitch including clarity, persuasiveness, market opportunity, business model, and signifi-

cant potential for positive impact in our community.

"We're incredibly proud of these women for showcasing their dedication, creativity, and drive throughout this competition. Their hard work reflects the true spirit of what the Elevate-HER Pitch Program is all about—empowering women to step forward, share their vision, and make an impact. Each finalist has inspired us with their unique story, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and contribute to our community. Congratulations to Karmen and to all our finalists!" said Maria Eugenia Leon Guerrero.

Bank of Guam launched the inaugural Elevate-HER Pitch Program in late August, aimed to empower female entrepreneurs at any stage of their business journey.

More than a dozen of majority women-owned and women-run businesses submitted applications. Through a series of workshops and coaching sessions, the finalists also received guidance on content creation, storytelling, overcoming obstacles, adding value, branding, visual presentation, and pitch practice. (PR)

World

IN LATEST ISRAELI STRIKE

Top Hezbollah leader among 37 people killed

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Israel and Hezbollah exchanged fire on Saturday as rescue crews in Beirut searched the rubble of an apartment building that was leveled by an Israeli airstrike that killed at least 37 people, including one of the militant group's senior leaders as well as women and children.

The Israeli government braced for an expected surge in Hezbollah rocket attacks by setting new caps on the size of gatherings and other restrictions in the north of the country, near Israel's border with Lebanon, that led to schools in some communities canceling classes on Sunday.

The airstrike Friday took down an eight-story building in a densely populated neighborhood in southern Beirut as Hezbollah members were meeting in the basement, according to Israel. Among those killed was Ibrahim Akil, a top Hezbollah official who commanded the group's special forces

unit the Radwan Force. Also killed was Ahmed Wahbi, a top commander in the group's military wing, the Israeli military said.

Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, said the attack, which came days after devastating coordinated attacks on Hezbollah that used exploding pagers and walkie-talkies, thwarted the group's chain of command while taking out Akil, who he said was responsible for Israeli deaths and who was on the U.S. wanted list for years.

"This is our commitment to the fallen and their loved ones. This is our commitment to the residents of the north. And this is a clear message to all those who seek to harm us," he posted on X.

Lebanon's health minister, Firass Abiad, told reporters that at least seven women and three children were killed in Friday's airstrike on the building. He said another 68 people were injured, including 15 who were hospitalized.

Zelenskyy hopes for quick US action as more arms depots are hit in Russia

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A major Ukrainian drone attack set multiple Russian arms depots ablaze, destroying what Ukraine's General Staff said were thousands of tons of weaponry, including missiles from North Korea.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, appealed for quick action from the United States to send more weapons before his visit to the White House next week with a multi-point "victory plan."

Ukraine launched more than 100 drones at Russia and the occupied Crimean Peninsula overnight, Russian news reports and the Defense Ministry said Saturday.

The strikes set an arms depot on fire just kilometers (miles) away from one struck by Ukrainian drones earlier this week, in an attack that wounded 13 people and also caused a huge blaze. Arms and ammunition depots were also hit on Saturday in Russia's southern Krasnodar region.

The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy will present to U.S. President Joe Biden will include long-range strike capabilities and other weapons long sought by Kyiv, and will

serve as the basis for any future negotiation with Russia, Zelenskyy told reporters.

Zelenskyy has regularly alluded to the plan's preparation, but hasn't publicly outlined its contents, saying only that it contains terms acceptable for Ukraine to negotiate with Russia.

"This will be the start and foundation for talking in any format with Russia. In any format, with any of its representatives, because there will be a plan and something to show," Zelenskyy said in a briefing Friday.

Zelenskyy said he will present the plan to Biden and Kamala Harris, the U.S. vice president and presidential candidate. Zelenskyy said that he also plans to meet with Harris' opponent in the November election, former President Donald Trump.

He said U.S. reluctance so far to allow Ukraine to use Western weapons to strike deep inside Russia stems from fears of escalation from Moscow, a major global nuclear power. Ukraine has had to use its own capabilities to conduct strikes inside Russian territory.

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Life & Style

Madonna makes veiled entrance to Dolce&Gabbana for show celebrating her 1990s heyday

MILAN (AP)—Celebrities swarmed Milan Fashion Week on the last big day of runway shows on Saturday, sending crowds of adoring fans from venue to venue.

Madonna sat in a front-row seat at Dolce & Gabbana, along with Naomi Campbell and Victoria De Angelis of Maneskin. Her bandmate, Maneskin frontman Damiano David, showed up at Diesel, one of the season’s hottest tickets, across town. Jacob Elordi took a seat on a bunny-shaped bean bag chair to take in the Bottega Veneta show.

Highlights from Milan Fashion Week’s mostly womenswear previews for next spring and summer on Saturday.

Dolce & Gabbana Celebrate Madonna

Madonna attempted a semi-stealth entrance to the Dolce & Gabbana runway show draped in a black veil for a runway show referencing her 1990s heyday and celebrat-

ing the cone bra.

Models in bleach-blond wigs strutted in Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana’s signature corsets and fitted jackets, each featuring the aggressively feminine cone bra, in a collection that notes said “pays homage to an ironic and powerful female figure.”

Madonna wasn’t cited specifically, but the stars of the Milan designers and pop star have been aligned ever since they made costumes for her 1993 Girlie Show tour. The tour promoted Madonna’s “Erotica” album launched alongside her taboo-breaking coffee table book, “Sex.”

“Madonna has always been our icon. It’s thanks to her that a lot of things in our lives changed,” the designers said in a note.

The collection, dubbed “Italian Beauty,” perfectly captured that moment in time. Cone bras peeked out of cropped jackets with a pencil skirt, garters swung from



AP
Madonna stands at the end of the Dolce & Gabbana Spring Summer 2025 fashion show, that was presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.

corsets and coats sculpted the body. Floral prints returned, accenting a color scheme of black, nude, red and white. Oversized cross earrings finished the looks. Heels were unabologetically high.

After taking their bows, the designers walked down the runway to greet their guest of honor. Madonna, still covered by the Chan-

tilly long lace veil fastened by a gold and crystal crown, stood to embrace them both.

Bottega Veneta taps wonder

Bottega Veneta’s sometimes misproportioned, sometimes crinkled, always provocative collection explores the intersection between the real world and fantasy, adulthood and

childhood. Creative director Matthieu Blazy’s meaning is simple: To delight.

“We need beauty. We need joy,” Blazy said backstage. “We need that experimental act. It is also an act of freedom.”

In this universe, a dental clinic receptionist wears a skirt with a trouser on just one leg, which Blazy asserts as a playful act. In a familiar scene, a well-dressed father carries his daughter’s pink and purple school bag. “Do we like the bag? I don’t know. Does it tell a story? Yes,” Blazy said.

Each detail is deliberate, from a flat collar on a dress shaped like bunny ears to big colorful raffia wigs, even if their ultimate purpose is just for fun. Crinkled clothes signify a childn’s attempt to dress up, only to be ruined by the end of the day.

Blazy’s characters carried what appeared to be ordinary plastic grocery bags, but which were made out of nylon and leather—part of the brand’s ongoing technological innovations. The faux plastic bags signified everyday life, and were accompanied by brand’s trademark woven bags, one for a violin, another a wine bottle.

Ferragamo’s freedom of movement

Ferragamo creative director Maximilian Davis celebrated the freedom of movement inherent in ballet in his new collection, inspired by archival photos of brand founder Salvatore Ferragamo fitting African American ballet dancer Katherine Dunham for shoes.

Dunham often trained and worked in the Caribbean, which allowed the British designer’s with Jamaican roots “to find a link between Ferragamo’s Italian-ness and my heritage.”

The collection recalls a 1980s way of dressing, with strong shoulders and oversized tailoring, also an homage to Russian ballet star Rudolf Nuryev, another historic Ferragamo customer.

Baldwin urges judge to stand by dismissal of involuntary manslaughter case in ‘Rust’ shooting

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Alec Baldwin urged a New Mexico judge on Friday to stand by her decision to skuttle his trial and dismiss an involuntary manslaughter charge against the actor in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on the set of a Western movie.

State District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case against Baldwin halfway through a trial in July based on the withholding of evidence by police and

prosecutors from the defense in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film “Rust.”

The charge against Baldwin was dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can’t be revived once any appeals of the decision are exhausted.

Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey recently asked the judge to reconsider, arguing that there were insufficient facts and that Baldwin’s due process rights had not been violated.

Baldwin, the lead actor and

co-producer on “Rust,” was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer—but not the trigger—and the revolver fired.

The case-ending evidence was ammunition that was brought into the sheriff’s office in March by a man who said it could be related to Hutchins’ killing. Prosecutors said they deemed the ammunition unrelated and unimportant, while Baldwin’s lawyers alleged that they “buried” it and filed a successful motion to dismiss the case.

In her decision to dismiss the Baldwin case, Marlowe Sommer described “egregious discovery violations constituting misconduct” by law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as false testimony about physical evidence by a witness during the trial.

Defense counsel says that prosecutors tried to establish

a link between the live ammo on set and Gutierrez-Reed, to drive home the argument that Baldwin should have recognized the armorer’s blundering youth and inexperience.

“Baldwin was intitled to pursue the truth at trial, especially after he requested to see ‘all rounds, casings and deconstructed rounds’ in the state’s possession,” the new court filing by defense attorneys states. “Yet the state deliberately withheld the evidence that Baldwin had requested.”

“Rust” movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed is serving an 18-month sentence on a conviction for involuntary manslaughter. She was accused of flouting standard safety protocols and missing multiple opportunities to detect forbidden live ammunition on set.

Assistant director and safety coordinator David Halls pleaded no contest to the negligent use of a deadly weapon and was sentenced to six months of unsupervised probation. A no contest plea isn’t an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

Woman ends all contact with man amid red flags

DEAR ABBY: When I came out of my introvert shell, I began trying to find a relationship. I went on a few dating websites and met some great guys and some not-so-great guys. One of the latter had been giving me red flags since our first date. We clicked at first and shared many of the same interests and hobbies, but he wanted to move WAY too fast.

While our dates had always been in public places, he constantly wanted to get me alone, either at my house or his. He seemed put off when I asked if another friend could come. Then there came a time when my health was faltering, and our infrequent meetings became less important to me. I told him I was having health problems, but the next day he invited me out for another date like I hadn’t just told him.

He either began to ignore what I was saying, or I was noticing it more frequently. Because of this and other things, I quit responding to him. This has now spiraled out of control. He has contacted me on every social media app, on my phone and by email. I am upset for a number of reasons, but I feel guilty ignoring him.

My family and friends say I am doing the right thing—that responding to any of his communication will give him the idea that I’m open to communicating again. I do not want to start talking to him again, but I still feel awful about ignoring him

completely. What should I do?

WONDERING WALLFLOWER

DEAR WONDERING: You may be feeling guilty because you are ghosting him, which I believe is bad form. Send him a text or an email telling him you haven’t responded to his attempts to communicate because you are not interested in a relationship, and he must stop trying to contact you. Period. If he persists after that, you may have picked up a stalker, and you should file a police report.

DEAR ABBY: Our son is engaged to marry a young lady our family can’t stand. No matter what we are discussing, she turns the conversation to long, boring stories about her friend, her aunt, her cousin, etc. Nobody cares about these stories, and they are constant. Our two daughters and their husbands roll their eyes and limit their time with her. My husband leaves the room. Even my 95-year-old mother, who is partially deaf, can’t be in her company.

Our daughters think we should tell our son not to marry her, as it is ruining our close family. He doesn’t seem to notice it, seems to love her and will be hurt. Have you any suggestions?

STUMPED MOM IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



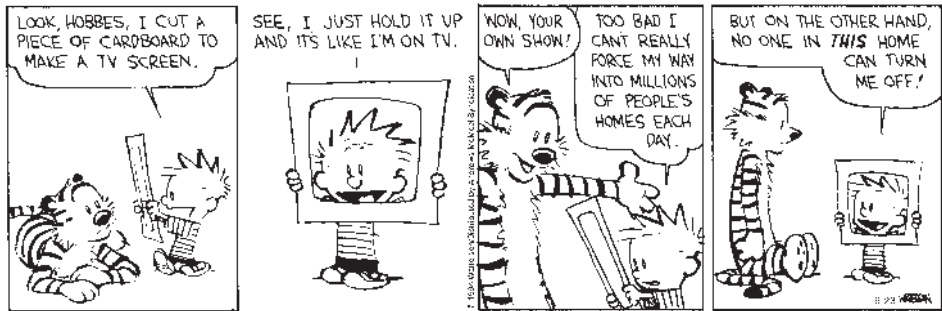
DEAR STUMPED MOM: If you do what your daughters are suggesting, your son is almost guaranteed to be offended and become defensive. It could very likely alienate him and his fiancée. An alternative might be for you to talk privately with your son and point out that his fiancée needs to curtail her speeches because, in case he hasn’t noticed, they are so long that she has literally been losing her audience.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



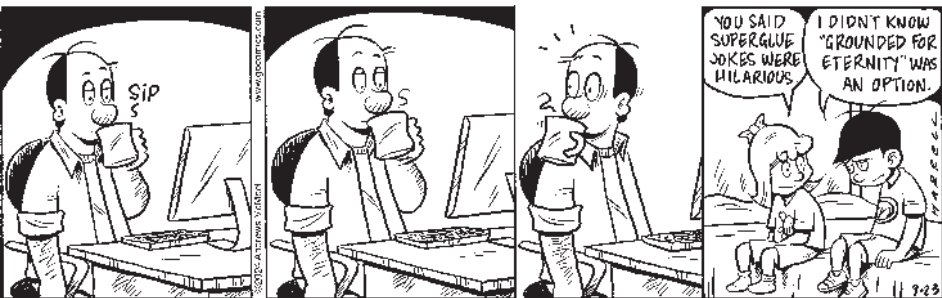
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



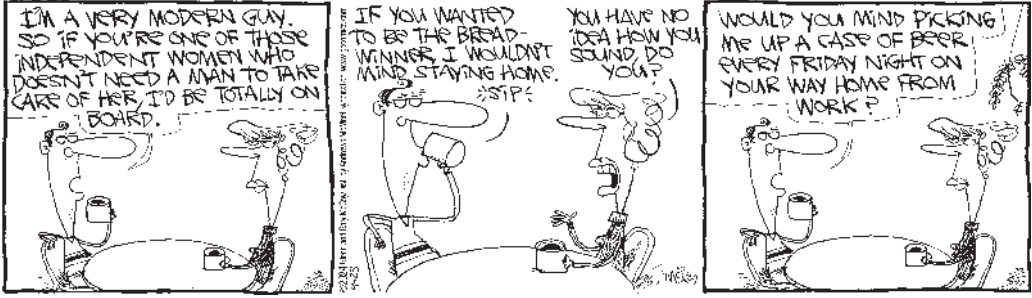
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lyricist
4 Play segment
7 Fall (over)
11 Cologne scent
13 Altar in the sky
14 Mine, in Marseille
15 Pocket bread
16 Taunting laugh
17 Melody
18 Tizzies
20 — Raton
22 Author Fleming
24 Mother of Minos
28 Duncan Hines product
32 Duck down
33 Hurler Hersheiser
34 Hanoi holiday
36 Prime-time hour
37 Buenos —
39 African grassland
41 Bed-ridden

DOWN

43 Mouth part
44 Grand tale
46 Recess
50 Avocado dip, for short
53 Tic-tac-toe loser
55 Horn sound
56 Out of control
57 Request
58 Alliances
59 Tony-winning
60 ACLU concerns
61 Cook tempura

1 Rap-scallions

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's answer 9-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Mackie, 46; Jason Alexander, 65; Bruce Springsteen, 75; Mary Kay Place, 77.

Happy Birthday: Set your goals high, expand your mind and refuse to let anyone stand between you and your dreams. Decide what's best for you and follow through. Trust your instincts, explore the possibilities and let your creative imagination lead the way. Be open to adventure, travel and participating in events and activities that raise your awareness and encourage you to make a difference. Express, demonstrate and complete your mission. Your numbers are 3, 10, 14, 28, 33, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expand your mind and awareness, gather facts and communicate. Choose to stay active and to use pent-up energy wisely to avoid unnecessary disagreements or setbacks. Take the time to find reasonable alternatives that help you reach your goal without interference. Don't count on others; do the work yourself. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will boost your attitude. Consider how you use your skills and attributes. Look for ways you can apply what you enjoy doing most to a job that offers more money and security or less pressure or discord. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Think big but live within your means. Too much of anything will drag you down. Discipline, ingenuity and using your charm to get ahead will pay off. By changing your perspective to suit a situation you want to dominate, you will connect with someone willing to help you excel. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your secrets to yourself, and don't spread gossip. Put your energy into doing your best and finishing what you start. Refrain from

letting anyone play with your emotions. Do something to lift your spirits. Book a massage, spend time with someone special or relax and rejuvenate. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Jump in, participate, meet and greet, go where the action is and make yourself heard. Say yes to change or to setting a course that promises adventure. Restructure your surroundings and routine to serve you better. Don't take a risk with your health or physical well-being. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pay attention to detail and articulate what you want. Make it impossible for anyone to twist your words or intentions. Put your energy behind your plans, and don't rely on anyone to do things for you. Change looks promising if you control the progress and outcome. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are overdue for a change. Establish what's important to you and map out a route to help you replace what's no longer valid with something that you find emotionally, mentally and physically stimulating. Don't let the past stand in your way; initiate what you want. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take on a physical challenge that helps you feel alive and points you in a healthy direction. Focus on what's good for you instead of wasting time trying to change others. Traveling, learning and engaging in whatever helps you achieve your goals will be fruitful. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider what and who grabs your attention -- and why -- before you agree to participate in something questionable. Dabble with the numbers, your overhead and your budget to ensure a better future and less stress. Choose what's essential and eliminate what you can do without. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Experience is the spice of life, and a change will awaken your imagination and desire to embrace what looks and feels vibrant to you. Share ideas, set a budget and put your plans in motion. Love what you do, who you are and where you are heading. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Address what's not working for you and initiate changes that push you in a direction conducive to your comfort and affordability. Be proactive instead of waiting for someone to back you into a corner. Walk away from negativity and what you have no control over, and focus on what you can achieve. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Simplicity and moderation are essential to accomplish your goals. Excessive behavior will be costly and make you vulnerable to personal or emotional loss. Put your energy into personal growth, self-improvement and better health by using discipline and implementing incentives to help you overcome unnecessary indulgence. **

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, creative and entertaining. You are tolerant and verbose.

3: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **33:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **333:** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **3333:** Aim high; start new projects. **33333:** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5			1		9			
3	8	9		4	6	2		7	
		6		2	9				
		1		3	4	5	7		
				7					
			2	6	1	3	4	9	
	9			5	7	1			
5	3			8			9		
1			4		3	8		2	

Difficulty: ★

9/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

2	9	5	6	3	8	4	1	7
1	8	3	5	4	7	6	2	9
6	4	7	2	1	9	5	3	8
5	3	1	9	2	6	8	7	4
9	7	6	1	8	4	2	5	3
4	2	8	7	5	3	9	6	1
7	5	2	4	9	1	3	8	6
8	1	4	3	6	2	7	9	5
3	6	9	8	7	5	1	4	2

Difficulty: ****

9/20

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PLAYING FUTSAL Solution: 7 letters

OP P O N E N T I T E G R A T
F H E A D I N G N I N I A R
F O M S L L I R D R A C A S
E L O O K C I K O R E C O H
N L V T T I L A O G T C F I
S A E O W I L L R I C E Y N N
I B M O E O O L O E E N G P O
V A E H R O R N O C L E T A I
E L N S H H O K O O C E T D S
T A T C R I C R R I S R A R S
E N S U P E N T O D T E R A E
P C L M N E N E I L L I T W S
M E A I R O S S A P E E S R S
O H L E C N A R U D N E I O O
C O U R T E C H N I C A L F P

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Balance, Ball, Card, Center, Champion, Compete, Control, Corner, Court, Drills, Endurance, Field, Footwork, Forward, Goal, Heading, Indoor, Kick, Line, Motion, Movement, Offensive, Opponent, Pass, Pitch, Position, Possession, Role, Rule, School, Shin Pad, Shoot, Skill, Soccer, Sole, Strategy, Target, Team, Technical, Traction, Training
Last Friday's answer: Wool
The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.
or call 1-800-642-6480, (in Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Rodgers sparkles in 1st home start since injury to lead Jets to win over Patriots



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers was in total control in a superb homecoming performance that kept the cheers and chants going from the giddy New York Jets fans.

And this time, Rodgers was able to walk off the field—healthy and a winner.

The star quarterback threw two touchdown passes while being showered with “Aa-ron! Rod-gers!” chants throughout, New York’s defense was dominant and the Jets rolled to a 24-3 victory over the New England Patriots in their home opener Thursday night.

“It was a really special night,” Rodgers said. “All those chants are really meaningful.”

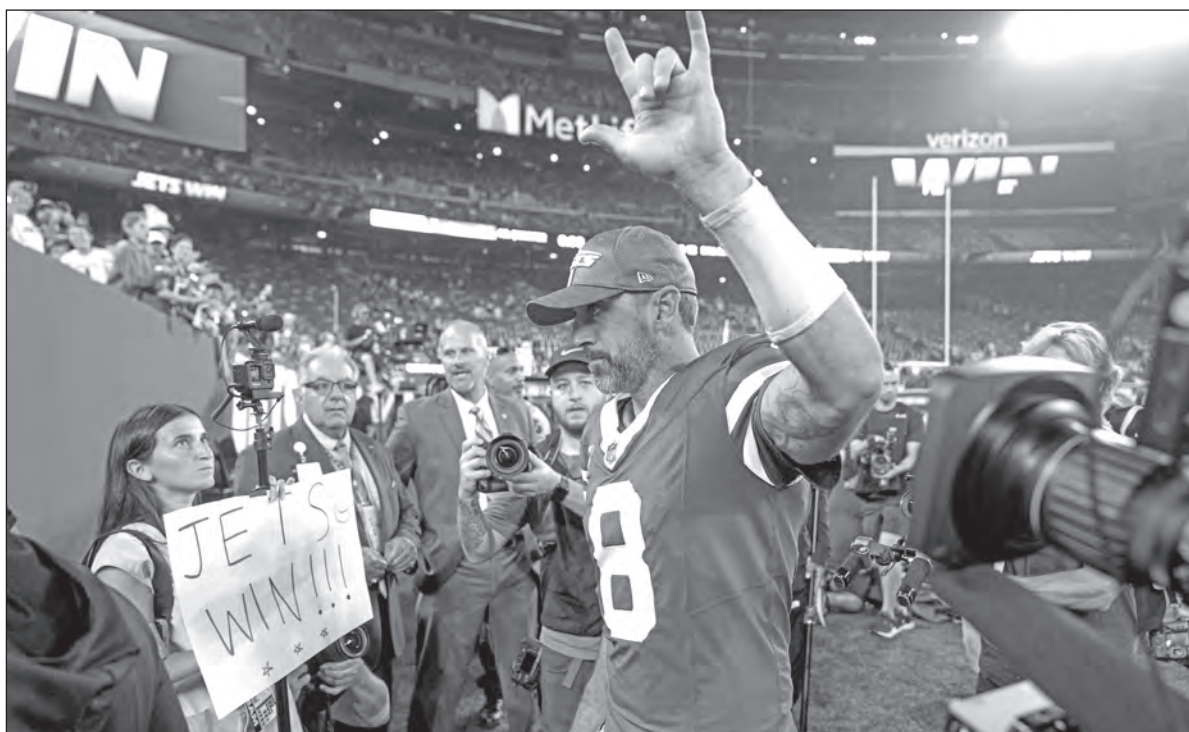
Rodgers started his first game at MetLife Stadium since leaving the field just over a year ago with a torn Achilles tendon in New York’s opener. The 40-year-old quarterback showed no signs of the injury — or playing in his third game in 11 days—while scrambling several times and making off-balance throws all night, slicing through New England’s defense with surgical precision.

“It felt great,” Rodgers said. “I was feeling real good out there. I felt good in pregame. I told you guys after Week 1 that it’s going to be a process and I’ll continue to extend plays once I feel more comfortable. This was kind of a first step in playing like I know I’m capable of playing.”

“I felt like I was, you know, myself.”

Rodgers finished 27 of 35 for 281 yards with TD tosses to Garrett Wilson and Allen Lazard as the Jets (2-1) ended an eight-game home losing streak against the Patriots (1-2).

“He may not be what he used to



New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) motions to fans as he walks off the field after playing against the New England Patriots in an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

be, but he still has plenty in those legs,” a smiling Jets coach Robert Saleh said of Rodgers. “His arm is still 30 and his mind is still operating at a high level.”

New York, which stopped a 15-game skid against New England last season in Bill Belichick’s final game as the Patriots’ coach, sacked Jacoby Brissett five times. Drake Maye, the No. 3 overall pick in April, made his NFL debut when he replaced Brissett—who was 12 of 18 for 98 yards—with 4:24 left in the game.

Maye finished 4 for 8 for 22 yards and was sacked twice, but Patriots coach Jerod Mayo wasn’t sure he would be making a quarterback change any time soon.

“I don’t know,” the first-year coach

said. “We talk every single week that you’re competing for a job. We’ll get together as a coaching staff and see where it goes.”

Breece Hall ran for a score for the Jets, who also snapped a six-game skid in Thursday night games.

And there was never much of a doubt in this one between the AFC East rivals.

“A lot of good things to build on from this game,” said Rodgers, who jogged onto the field to a thunderous ovation.

Soon after, he sent the crowd into a frenzy again.

After the Jets’ first drive stalled, Rodgers marched them down the field—with a little help by a mental mistake from the Patriots.

A first-down pass from Rodgers to Hall was stopped for no gain, but Jah-lani Tavai lifted the Jets running back and slammed him to the turf with a move more suitable for the wrestling ring. The 15-yard penalty put the ball at New England’s 31.

Four plays later, Rodgers threw a quick out to Lazard on his left. The receiver made a move and Alex Austin reached out to try to stop him, but instead got only a handful of Lazard’s undershirt that stretched several yards like a rubber band before Lazard broke away and zipped into the end zone for a 13-yard touchdown.

Lazard immediately ran over to his quarterback and handed the ball to Rodgers, who threw his first touchdown pass at home for the Jets.

Rodgers and the Jets kept things going on their next possession, capping a 13-play, 91-yard drive with a 1-yard run by Hall that was reversed by video review after it was originally ruled he was short of the goal line.

Joey Slye’s 44-yard field goal cut the Patriots’ deficit to 14-3 with 3:56 left in the first half.

New York made it 21-3 with 6:18 remaining in the third quarter when Rodgers zipped a pass to his right and found Wilson, who toe-tapped in the front corner of the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown.

It marked the third straight game the Jets had at least three touchdowns on offense.

After Chuck Clark forced and recovered a fumble by Rhamondre Stevenson, the Jets increased their lead on a 28-yard field goal by Greg Zuerlein.

“Honestly, it just wasn’t our night,” Brissett said. “I don’t think we did anything well, to be honest with you.”

Lopsided

In the first half, the Jets outgained the Patriots 252 yards to 40 and had 17 first downs to New England’s four. It was the fewest first downs for the Patriots in any half since 2000.

The final stats weren’t much better: New York finished with 400 yards to New England’s 139, and 27 first downs to the Patriots’ 11.

Injuries

Patriots: Austin (ankle), LG Michael Jordan (knee) and rookie LT Caedan Wallace (knee) all left in the fourth quarter.

Jets: RT Morgan Moses injured a knee on the final play of the third quarter and didn’t return. First-round pick Olu Fashanu replaced him.

Derek Carr, Saints buck the NFL trend of early season offensive struggles

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

The worst start to a season for passing offenses in years hasn’t hit the New Orleans Saints.

While quarterbacks and offenses around the league have struggled to get going, Derek Carr and the Saints are clicking with an early efficiency that might not ever have been reached before in the NFL.

The Saints followed a 47-point outburst in the season opener against the Carolina Panthers by beating the Dallas Cowboys 44-19 on Sunday, becoming the fifth team to score at least 44 points in each of the first two games of a season.

New Orleans was the last team to do it in 2009 on the way to the franchise’s only Super Bowl title, with the other three instances coming before the 1970 NFL-AFL merger. The Raiders did it in 1968, Detroit in 1962 and the Rock Island Independents in 1920 in the inaugural season in what is now known as the NFL.

The Saints, under new coordinator Klint Kubiak, scored

on their first 15 drives of the season with Carr at quarterback, scoring on all nine drives in the opener before Carr was replaced by Jake Haener and then getting TDs on the first six possessions against the Cowboys before an interception ended that run.

Sportradar has tracked player participation since 2006 and no quarterback in that span had led 15 straight scoring drives at any point of a season. The longest streaks before Carr’s for the Saints, excluding drives that ended with kneel downs at the end of a half or game, were a 13-drive streak for Drew Brees and the Saints in 2018 and streaks of 12 for Baltimore’s Lamar Jackson in 2019 and New England’s Tom Brady in 2007.

Carr and the Saints are the exception, with the 128 offensive touchdowns down 54 from the first two weeks in 2020 and tied for the second fewest in the last 18 seasons. The 193.6 net yards passing per game are the fewest through two weeks since 1996 (188.3).

While Carr has thrown for only 443 yards in the first two weeks thanks to blowouts that led to a heavy dose of runs, only five QBs have hit the 300-yard mark for the fewest 300-yard passing games in the first two weeks since 1996, when there were only three.

The situation isn’t nearly so rosy for another NFC South team, with 2023 No. 1 overall draft pick Bryce Young having only 245 yards passing in two games combined, leading to his benching just two games into his second season.

Young was the 27th quarterback taken first overall in the common draft era and the first of those to lose his starting job in his second season for non-injury reasons.

Young’s production has been anemic, with his career passer rating (70.9), touchdown passes (11) and yards per attempt (5.4) trailing the numbers through 18 starts of 2007 No. 1 overall pick Ja-Marcus Russell, who is the epitome of a top-pick QB bust.

Young’s 2-16 record is the third worst of any quarterback

who has made at least 15 starts, and he went four straight starts dating to last season with no TD passes and fewer than 165 yards passing in each game. Only four other QBs had done that since 2000, with at least 12 attempts in each game.

While Young has struggled in Year 2, the rookie QBs haven’t fared much better, with Caleb Williams, Jayden Daniels and Bo Nix combining for a 64.2 passer rating and no TD passes on 196 attempts.

That’s the most attempts for rookie quarterbacks in the first two weeks without a TD since the merger, topping the 70 from 1970 when Terry Bradshaw was the top rookie.

Tough Tomlin

The Pittsburgh Steelers have more wins than touchdowns this season in what can best be described as Mike Tomlin football.

After winning the opener against Atlanta on six field goals by Chris Boswell, Pittsburgh got into the end zone once on Sunday in a 13-6 win over Denver.

The Steelers are just the third team since at least 1960 to win the first two games of a season while scoring only one TD combined in those games. Detroit did it in 2000 and Buffalo in 1988.

The wins the first two weeks improved Tomlin’s record as a coach to 42-40-1 (.512) when his team scores one offensive touchdown or fewer in a game. The rest of the NFL has a .227 winning percentage in that situation since Tomlin was hired in 2007, with no other coach with at least 10 tries having a winning record.

How’d that happen?

The New York Giants scored three touchdowns on Sunday against Washington, allowed none and somehow came out on the losing end of a 21-18 score.

How rare is that?

Extremely, it turns out.

The last time a team scored at least three touchdowns, gave up none and lost a game came on Nov. 5, 1989. On that day, Minnesota got seven field goals from Rich Karlis in regulation and beat the Rams 23-21 in overtime when the Vikings blocked a punt for a

game-ending safety.

In all, there have been 1,235 times since 2000 that a team scored three more TDs than the opponent. The Giants are just the second of those teams to lose, with the other coming Oct. 21, 2007, when Houston fell 38-36 to Tennessee. The Titans got a record eight field goals from Rob Bironas and two TDs that day, while the Texans scored five touchdowns.

Nearly as unlikely was the comeback for Atlanta against Philadelphia on Monday night. The Falcons had a 0.7% chance of winning when they trailed 18-15 with 1:56 remaining and the Eagles had a first down at the Atlanta 17, according to the NFL’s Next Gen Stat model.

But two runs followed by the Falcons’ final two timeouts and then a dropped pass by Saquon Barkley on third down gave Atlanta a chance. Philadelphia opted to kick a field goal on fourth-and-3 to go up six, setting the stage for Kirk Cousins to drive for the winning TD and the seventh-most improbable win as far back as NGS data goes to 2016.

De La Cruz, Reds pound Pirates, 7-1



CINCINNATI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit a three-run homer, drove in four runs and scored twice to lead the Cincinnati Reds to a 7-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Saturday.

De La Cruz, who had three hits, joined Eric Davis and Barry Larkin as the only Reds' players with 25 homers and 65 stolen bases in a season. He stole his 100th career base in his 251st game on Friday night.

Rookie Rhett Lowder (2-2) made his fifth start for Cincinnati and allowed five hits in five innings. He has a 1.40 ERA through five starts, allowing one earned run or fewer in four of them.

NATIONALS 5, CUBS 1
CHICAGO (AP)—MacKenzie Gore struck out nine in seven sparkling innings, and Washington beat Chicago.

Joey Gallo hit a three-run homer for Washington, which had dropped five in a row. José Tena had three of the Nationals' 12 hits.

Washington played without All-Star shortstop CJ Abrams, who was demoted to the minors earlier in the day. Abrams isn't expected to play for the big league team again this season.

Gore (10-12) earned his second straight win. The 25-year-old left-hander was working on a no-hitter before Patrick Wisdom connected for his eighth homer with one out in the seventh inning.

TIGERS 6, ORIOLES 4, 10 INNINGS
BALTIMORE (AP)—Beau Brieske pitched out of a jam in the ninth inning, Riley Greene drove in the go-ahead run in the 10th and Detroit inched closer in the AL wild-card chase by beating Baltimore.

Detroit moved within a half-game of the Twins for the final American League playoff spot. Minnesota's game at Boston was rained out and rescheduled as part of a double-header Sunday.

The surging Tigers have won 10 of 13 to put themselves in surprise postseason contention after being under .500 a month ago.

RAYS 3, BLUE JAYS 2
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jonathan Aranda homered for the second consecutive game, helping Taj Bradley and Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Aranda connected for a two-run shot in the third inning against Yariel Rodríguez (1-7), giving Tampa Bay a 3-0 lead. He also went deep in a

1-0 victory over Toronto on Friday night. Five of Aranda's nine career homers have come against the Blue Jays.

Bradley (7-11) pitched five innings of one-run ball in his first win since July 25. The right-hander, who struck out four and walked two, was 0-7 with a 7.88 ERA in his previous nine starts.

Drew Rasmussen struck out three over two perfect innings to get his first save.

METS 6, PHILLIES 3
NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Manaea won his fourth straight decision, Brandon Nimmo hit a tiebreaking single in a three-run seventh inning and New York beat Philadelphia to prevent the Phillies from clinching the NL East title.

Francisco Alvarez and Luisangel Acuña hit second-inning home runs that put the Mets ahead 2-1. Alvarez added a two-run double in the seventh against Orion Kerkering (5-3) for a 5-2 lead, and Edwin Díaz got a four-out save.

New York (86-69) won for the 17th time in 22 games. The Mets began the day two games ahead of Atlanta for the final NL wild card and one game behind Arizona, which was in the second wild-card position.

BRAVES 6, MARLINS 2
MIAMI (AP)—Matt Olson broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run homer and Atlanta beat Miami to stay two games behind the New York Mets for the last National League wild card.

New York beat Philadelphia 6-3 at Citi Field, preventing the NL East-leading Phillies from clinching the division crown.

Gio Urshela and Jorge Soler also went deep for the Braves. Marcell Ozuna and Michael Harris II each had three hits.

Atlanta starter Max Fried allowed two runs—one earned—and five hits over six innings. Fried (10-10) walked one, struck out six and reached double-digit wins for the fourth time in his career.

GIANTS 9, ROYALS 0
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—LaMonte Wade Jr. and Matt Chapman hit two home runs each, Landen Roupp pitched five scoreless innings for his first major league win, and San Francisco handed Kansas City their sixth straight loss.

The Royals are clinging to the AL's second wild-card berth. Kansas City's lead over the Minnesota Twins—who were rained out Saturday—was reduced to a half game. The Tigers are another one half game behind the Twins.

Wade put the Giants ahead with two out in the first inning,



Cincinnati Reds' Elly De La Cruz, right, celebrates after his three-run home run with Jonathan India, left, during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, in Cincinnati.

lining a first-pitch solo homer above the right field bullpen.

Wade led off the fourth with a drive down the right field line and Chapman followed with a blast to straightaway center, marking the seventh time the Giants have had back-to-back homers this season. It was the first multi-homer game of Wade's career.

MARINERS 8, RANGERS 4
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Julio Rodríguez homered on the first pitch and had a tiebreaking RBI single in the sixth inning of his four-hit game, and wild card-chasing Seattle beat Texas.

The Mariners (80-75) pulled within 1 1/2 games of Minnesota for the third AL wild card after the Twins were rained out in Boston. Detroit is a half-game behind Minnesota.

The seventh leadoff homer of the season for the Mariners, and the first for Rodríguez, came off Dane Dunning, who started for Max Scherzer when the three-time Cy Young Award winner was scratched.

Scherzer was placed on the 15-day injured list with a left hamstring strain, ending the season for the 40-year-old right-hander who is on an expiring contract. Various health issues limited Scherzer to nine starts.

ASTROS 10, ANGELS 4
HOUSTON (AP)—Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker hit back-to-back home runs and finished with four hits apiece in Houston's win over Los Angeles.

Victor Caratini launched an early three-run homer to help back Astros starter Ronel Blanco (12-6). Houston had a season-high 20 hits and lowered its magic number to three for clinching the AL West crown.

Alvarez and Tucker connected off reliever Ryan Miller in a span of three pitches in the seventh inning with Houston already leading 8-2. It marked the seventh time the team has hit back-to-back home runs this season.

Tucker put together his second consecutive four-hit game. Alvarez entered the night hitless in his previous 12 at-bats.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, BREWERS 0
MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joc Pederson, Jose Herrera and Ketel Marte homered, and Arizona beat Milwaukee to maintain their position in the NL wild-card standings.

Diamondbacks right-hander Merrill Kelly (5-0) struck out six while pitching five innings of two-hit ball. He threw 72 pitches, 48 for strikes, before departing because of a cramp in his right calf.

Arizona (87-68) earned its fourth consecutive win. It stayed one game ahead of the New York Mets for the second NL wild card.

Pederson's 23rd homer, a two-run shot off Aaron Civale (7-9), staked Kelly to a 2-0 lead in the first.

CARDINALS 6, GUARDIANS 5
ST. LOUIS (AP)—Iván Herrera and Jordan Walker hit home runs and St. Louis beat Cleveland after the Guardians had already clinched the AL Central title earlier in the day.

José Ramírez and Bo Naylor homered for Cleveland, which clinched its 12th division title since 1995 when the San Francisco Giants beat the Kansas City Royals 9-0 earlier Saturday.

Miles Mikolas (9-11) allowed one run on four hits in six innings to earn his first win since July 21 when he beat the Braves in Atlanta. He was 0-3 with a 6.80 ERA in his previous nine starts.

Ryan Helsley pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his 46th save in 50 chances to tie Guardians reliever Emmanuel Clase for the major league lead.

PADRES 6, WHITE SOX 2
SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chicago tied the American

League record with their 119th loss, when Xander Bogaerts and Elias Díaz each hit a two-run homer to help San Diego Padres win and move closer to a playoff spot.

The White Sox (36-119) matched the AL mark set by the 2003 Detroit Tigers, who finished 43-119. One more defeat for Chicago over its final seven games would equal the post-1900 record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion New York Mets. Chicago is 9-48 since the All-Star break.

The 1899 Cleveland Spiders hold the major league record for losses at 20-134.

Chris Flexen (2-15) remained winless in his last 23 starts. The White Sox lost their 20th straight road series.

YANKEES 10, ATHLETICS 0
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 54th home run of the season, Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run drive, and Anthony Volpe also went deep as New York powered past Oakland.

The Yankees matched their season high by opening a five-game lead over Baltimore in the AL East with seven games left and earned Aaron Boone his 600th managerial win.

Carlos Rodón (16-9) struck out four and walked one, allowing five hits over six innings to win his second straight start and build on his career-best wins total.

The A's drew 33,198 fans on a night they planned a postgame drone and fireworks show during the club's final homestand before a planned move to Sacramento for the next three seasons before hoping to head to Las Vegas in 2028. Oakland has dropped four straight games at the Coliseum with four remaining at home.

ROCKIES 6, DODGERS 3
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a tiebreaking homer in the fifth inning and last-place Colorado regrouped after blowing a three-run lead to beat NL West-leading Los Angeles.

The loss by the 92-win Dodgers assured that for the first time since 2014 no team in the major leagues will win 100 games, not including the 60-game, pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

The Dodgers' division lead dropped to three games over second-place San Diego, which beat the Chicago White Sox. Los Angeles managed just one hit after the fifth.

Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani stole his 53rd base in the ninth. The newly crowned 50-50 king remained at 52 homers. He singled, walked, scored and struck out on his final give-away night of the season.

Embiid signs a 3-year, \$193M contract extension with 76ers

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Already an NBA MVP and an Olympic gold medalist, All-Star center Joel Embiid now has until the end of the decade to try to win his first NBA championship with the Philadelphia 76ers.

With another maximum contract secured, Embiid wants to chase that title in Philly—and remain a Sixer for the rest of his career.

“Philadelphia is home,” Embiid wrote on Instagram.

A seven-time NBA All-Star,

Embiid and the 76ers agreed to a \$193 million extension with a player option for the 2028-29 season, a person familiar with the deal said. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the terms have not yet been announced.

The 30-year-old Embiid, who graduated from a Florida high school and played a season in college at Kansas, broke his own news early Friday morning when he posted a photo on Instagram of him signing a contract alongside team owner Josh Harris.

“I want to be here the rest of my career. I love this community and everything you’ve given me and my family,” Embiid wrote. “There is a lot more work to do. You guys deserve a championship and I think we’re just getting started.”

Embiid, who dropped a franchise-record 70 points last season against San Antonio, signed off with the familiar 76ers hashtag, “#trust-theprocess.”

Embiid—still in the second year of a \$196 million extension he signed ahead of the



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid waves to Chicago Bulls fans after hitting a 3-point shot late in the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Bulls of Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, in Chicago.

Maxey, was rewarded with a five-year, \$204 million extension. The 76ers committed more than \$400 million in salary to two players they believe position them as the top contender to dethrone the NBA champion Boston Celtics.

George and Maxey both congratulated Embiid on the extension on Instagram.

Throw in Embiid's deal and the Sixers are counting on a Big Three that can contend for the life of their contracts. Embiid, though, has a history of injuries and has yet to lead to the franchise out of the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. Embiid has never played more than 68 games in a season and averaged 34.7 points in just 39 games last season.

MARLIN

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aged to get strikes.”

They initially caught a smaller marlin off Marpi Reef up north before their prized catch. With their 121-lb. haul, he said he heard that someone had caught a 109-lb. marlin beforehand. “When I looked at our fish and being that fresh—we thought it had to be over 109 lbs. So, we were happy and we were just praying that no one else came in with a bigger one.”

When they secured the \$20,000 with their freshly caught fish just an hour before the cutoff, he said, “It’s a great

feeling. It’s still a lot to take in, but we have a year to enjoy it.”

The fisherman of six years said that it’s his first time to win overall in a marlin derby, but placed first during a wahoo and mahi derby under the boat *Salty Bandits*.

On how he came to captain *Ruby Reels* this time around, he said, “I fish with the guy who owns the boat and he decided to sponsor the derby, so we just went ahead and fished for his team.”

With his earnings from the \$20,000, he said, “We’ve been planning a trip to Japan this February for snowboarding, so we’re going to try and make that happen now.”

SFA’s Curtis Dancocoe, chair-

man of the tournament, said that there were 21 boats that joined this year. “It was a successful event. We had 21 participants—two of which were from Guam. We just got over a nasty spell of weather in the area so we’re still happy with our showing.”

He added, “All the fishermen were happy. Congratulations to *My Princess Jasmine* and of course *Ruby Reels* for an outstanding performance at the 2nd Annual Elijah Craig Billfish Tournament.”

He then thanked their sponsor, Elijah Craig. “We’re looking forward to the third annual next year.”

The 2nd Annual Elijah Craig Billfish Tournament wraps up SFA’s derbies this year.

PADRES

From page 16

Lifofoi and Jonah Flores reached home when Lizama Jr. failed to locate the strike zone for a 2-0 game.

The Bandits struck back at the bottom of the inning with a Devon Flores single, who then made his way home on a breakdown of the Padres’ defense after John Wilson’s at-bat to make it 1-2.

The floodgates then opened in the fourth with the Padres’ six-run inning that began in the middle of their order. Keith Kintol, Austin Benavente, Jordan Suel, Kazu Dela Cruz,

Jonah Flores, and J.R. Suel all made it home which knocked out Lizama Jr. from the game.

The Bandits didn’t give up despite being down 1-8, and rounded the bases three times in the fifth to cut the lead in half, 4-8. The Padres added one more in the seventh and in the eighth, while the Bandits struggled at the plate.

In the last inning, the Bandits made for a rally as they had some traffic on the bases, but only collected one run from Franko Nakamura. Wasted opportunities with men in scoring position became their downfall and they handed the Padres the last finals spot, 5-10.

Austin Benavente, the Padres catcher said of their win and reaching the finals, “It feels good for a newly formed team to come out and make it to the championship. It’s a great feeling.”

As for their matchup against the defending champions Cardinals, “It’s going to be a tough matchup. Those guys can ball. I mean they’re the defending champions, but our team is really good too. It’ll be a good championship so I just hope everyone is healthy and plays their best.”

The finals are now set between the Padres and the Cardinals, with the finals schedule to follow.

FMS

From page 16

12-7 at the end of the first half as Justin Garde led the team with his accurate takes at the basket.

Then, TMS’ lead shrunk to 1 point, 12-11, as the minutes dwindled from quick shots by HMS’ Johnli Tagium. It was still anybody’s game but the tide turned when HMS took the lead, 14-14 with 7:33 left.

The tug-of-war with the lead went on as both teams tried to outpace the other and run away with the lead, and

finally, HMS took their momentum and rode it out to a 19-16 lead—their biggest in the game.

TMS still had a chance to either reclaim the lead or force overtime as they closed the gap, 18-21, but Hail Marys by TMS came to naught with less than a minute left and HMS’ Zuriel Abejo, Leon Galarse, and Tagium closed out the game, 25-20.

In other results, FMS JV outscored COVMS JV, 28-8; HMS JV trounced Dandan Middle School JV, 25-17; DMS beat Grace Christian Academy, 34-11; and Mount Carmel School blanked Saipan

Community School, 39-0.

First Game
FMS 51 – Camacho 12, Duenas 10, Daniel 9, John 7, Defang 5, Rogolifoi 4, Gimed 4.
COVMS 29 – Villagomez 14, Pangelinan 11, Jones 3, San Nicolas 1.
Scoring by halves: 30-17, 51-29.

Second Game
HMS 25 – Abejo 9, Galarse 8, Tagium 8.
TMS 20 – Garde 9, Sablan 5, Danis 2, Camacho 2, Hosono 2.
Scoring by halves: 7-12, 25-20.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	91	64	.587	—
Baltimore	86	69	.555	5
Tampa Bay	77	78	.497	14
Boston	76	78	.494	14½
Toronto	73	82	.471	18
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	90	66	.577	—
Kansas City	82	73	.529	7½
Minnesota	81	73	.526	8
Detroit	81	74	.523	8½
Chicago	36	119	.232	53½
West Division				
Houston	85	70	.548	—
Seattle	80	75	.516	5
Texas	73	82	.471	12
Oakland	67	88	.432	18
Los Angeles	62	93	.400	23
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
z-Philadelphia	92	63	.594	—
New York	86	69	.555	6
Atlanta	84	71	.542	8
Washington	69	86	.445	23
Miami	57	98	.368	35
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	88	67	.568	—
Chicago	79	76	.510	9
St. Louis	78	77	.503	10
Cincinnati	76	80	.487	12½
Pittsburgh	72	83	.465	16
West Division				
z-Los Angeles	92	63	.594	—
San Diego	89	66	.574	3
Arizona	87	68	.561	5
San Francisco	76	79	.490	16
Colorado	60	95	.387	32

x-clinched division
z-clinched playoff berth

NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30	48
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57
South						
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	48	40
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	37	45
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	34	48
North						
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	31	16
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	35	46
Baltimore	0	2	0	.000	43	53
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42
West						
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	53	45
L.A. Chargers	2	0	0	1.000	48	13
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	36	45
Denver	0	2	0	.000	26	39
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	52	61
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	55	51
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	24	49
South						
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	91	29
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	57	36
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	32	39
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	13	73
North						
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	51	23
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	37	36
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	44
West						
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	40
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	49	42
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	30	67

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ruby Reels nets \$20K with 121-lb marlin

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Ruby Reels captain Austin Benavente had a productive and rewarding weekend after fishing and slugging his way to the top of his two main sports.



The baseball player and avid fisherman captained *Ruby Reels* to the \$20,000 pot of Saipan Fishermen's Association's 2nd Annual Elijah Craig Billfish Tournament last Saturday off the waters of Smiling Cove Marina—the day after helping his Saipan



FLOYD MASGA

Crew of first place *Ruby Reels* with captain Austin Benavente, holding prize, poses with Saipan Fishermen's Association board members during the awards ceremony of the SFA 2nd Annual Elijah Craig Billfish Tournament yesterday at the Last Shot Bar.



FLOYD MASGA

Crew of second place and side bet winner *My Princess Jasmine* pose with their prize and the Saipan Fishermen's Association board members during the awards ceremony of the SFA 2nd Annual Elijah Craig Billfish Tournament yesterday at the Last Shot Bar.



FLOYD MASGA

Crew of *Ruby Reels* pose with their two blue marlin hauls during weighing of the Saipan Fishermen's Association at the Smiling Cove Marina last Saturday.

Padres prey on Bandits, 10-5 for finals spot

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The long-awaited 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League semifinals between the Padres and Bandits finally came into fruition last Friday—with the Padres solidifying their spot in the finals, 10-5, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Both teams got off to a slow start in the first and second inning as the pitchers duked it out and were basically untouchable. Jose Lizama Jr. pitched a gem in both innings as he retired the Padres in order in the second, and allowed just one batter on base.



LEIGH GASES

Padres starting pitcher J.P. Sablan delivers a pitch to a Bandits batter during their semis matchup in the 2024 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Bandits, on the other hand, chipped away at the Padres' J.P. Sablan with an opening double by K.J. Deleon Guerrero and a single in the second. But it amounted

to nothing as Sablan got out of a two baserunner jam for still a 0-0 game.

Then, the Padres' offense picked up their pitcher as Ko

See PADRES on Page 15

FMS, HMS nip 2nd win in boys hoops

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders and Hopwood Middle School Hilitais varsity teams posted their second win in a row in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2024-2025 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Napu Riders took on Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus and

won, 51-29.

The Lancherus put up a good fight against a more dominant FMS team toward the end of the first half. FMS' lead didn't stray from close to double digits or nine points as with each FMS point, COVMS retaliated.

COVMS found their rhythm and closed the gap, 17-24, with mere minutes in the first half left. But FMS' Leon Duenas went on a tear and scored five straight points to end the first half, 30-17.

In the second half, the Napu Riders came out of the gates stronger than before and

left an exhausted COVMS in their dust. While COVMS' Lafayette Villagomez went deep from the 3-point line four times, it just wasn't enough to put a stop to FMS' firepower.

In the end, COVMS stagnated at 29 points, while FMS' lead climbed higher and eventually won with a deficit of 22 points.

Dezmon Camacho led the Napu Riders with 12 points, followed by Duenas' 10, while Logan Daniel put up 9. Villagomez had a game-high 14 points, while Payton Pangelinan scored 11.

At the same time on the south court, defending champions HMS took on Tanapag Middle School Tatagas. They rallied to win a close, 25-20 game.

The Hilitais got off to a slow start and were behind, 3-7 in the first minutes of the game to a strong TMS team. But later, HMS' three key players put out all the stops to ensure the mission to come back went according to plan.

It was a hotly contested matchup between two strong teams as back-and-forth action kept fans on the edge of their seats. TMS were up,

See FMS on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Aiden Gimed, right, and Chacha Ocean View Middle School's Payton Pangelinan are all eyes on the ball as they try to go for a rebound during an FMS free throw attempt in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2024-2025 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.